

2nd  
READ

## Reading with a Writer's Eye

**Mr. Hughes** (*Slowly turning pages; irritated*):

Langston, you've hardly done any work on these at all.

**Langston** (*Pleading*):

I tried—I really did. (*Sighs*) Accounting just isn't for me. I'm more interested in other things (**Paces**)—like writing.

**Mr. Hughes** (*Slamming ledger shut*):

So—just as I thought. I suppose you've been sitting around here since I left—daydreaming?

**Langston:**

Actually, I've been very busy.

**Mr. Hughes** (*Angrily*):

I didn't bring you to Mexico just to waste your life, Langston.

**Langston:**

I appreciate what you're doing for me, but—

**Mr. Hughes** (*Banging desk*):

No excuses! You can be as successful as I am. (*Rises*) I left the States and moved here to Mexico because here a black man can live like any other man. That's why I **insisted** you move here from Cleveland . . . so you can have more **opportunities**! Here if he works hard, a man can be a success at whatever he wants.

**Langston** (*Confidently*):

I plan to be a successful writer. **5**

**Mr. Hughes:**

Nonsense! You'll attend a good school and earn a degree in engineering.

**Langston** (*Surprised*):

Engineering? **6**

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### Dialogue

- ◆ In a play, we learn almost everything about the story and the characters through dialogue.
- ◆ How does *Mary Satchell* show us, through dialogue, how Langston's father feels about his writing? She has his father refer to Langston's writing as "daydreaming" and as a way that he is "wasting his life."
- ◆ Through this dialogue, what does *Mary Satchell* want us to know about the conflict between Langston and his father? Langston wants to be a writer, but his father thinks that writing is a waste of time.



### Vocabulary Tip

Point out the words *pleading*, *paces*, and *opportunities*. Ask students to use context clues or apposition to determine what the words mean.



### Expanding Vocabulary

**insisted** (in • sis' • təd) v. past tense of **insist**: to demand  
The angry customer *insisted* that he speak to the manager.