

# Comprehension Strategies

**13 Clarifying** Teacher Modeling: *This clears up the confusion we had earlier. Langston wanted to go to Columbia because he knew it was near Harlem. But I wonder why Harlem attracts Langston.*

**14 Clarifying** Teacher Modeling: *So this is why he wants to be near Harlem—thousands of black Americans live there, and he wants to write about black people.*

**15 Summarizing** Teacher Modeling: *This would be a good place to summarize the first part of the second scene. It is a year later, and Langston is living in a dormitory with Thad at Columbia. Langston has tried to study engineering, but he has been spending more time in Harlem and less time on his studies. He cares more about writing than earning a good wage. His father is coming to visit, and Langston decides to tell him the truth.*

## Comprehension Check

What reasons does Langston give for wanting to quit his engineering studies? *He wants to be true to himself and follow his heart—to write about black people.*

## Word Structure

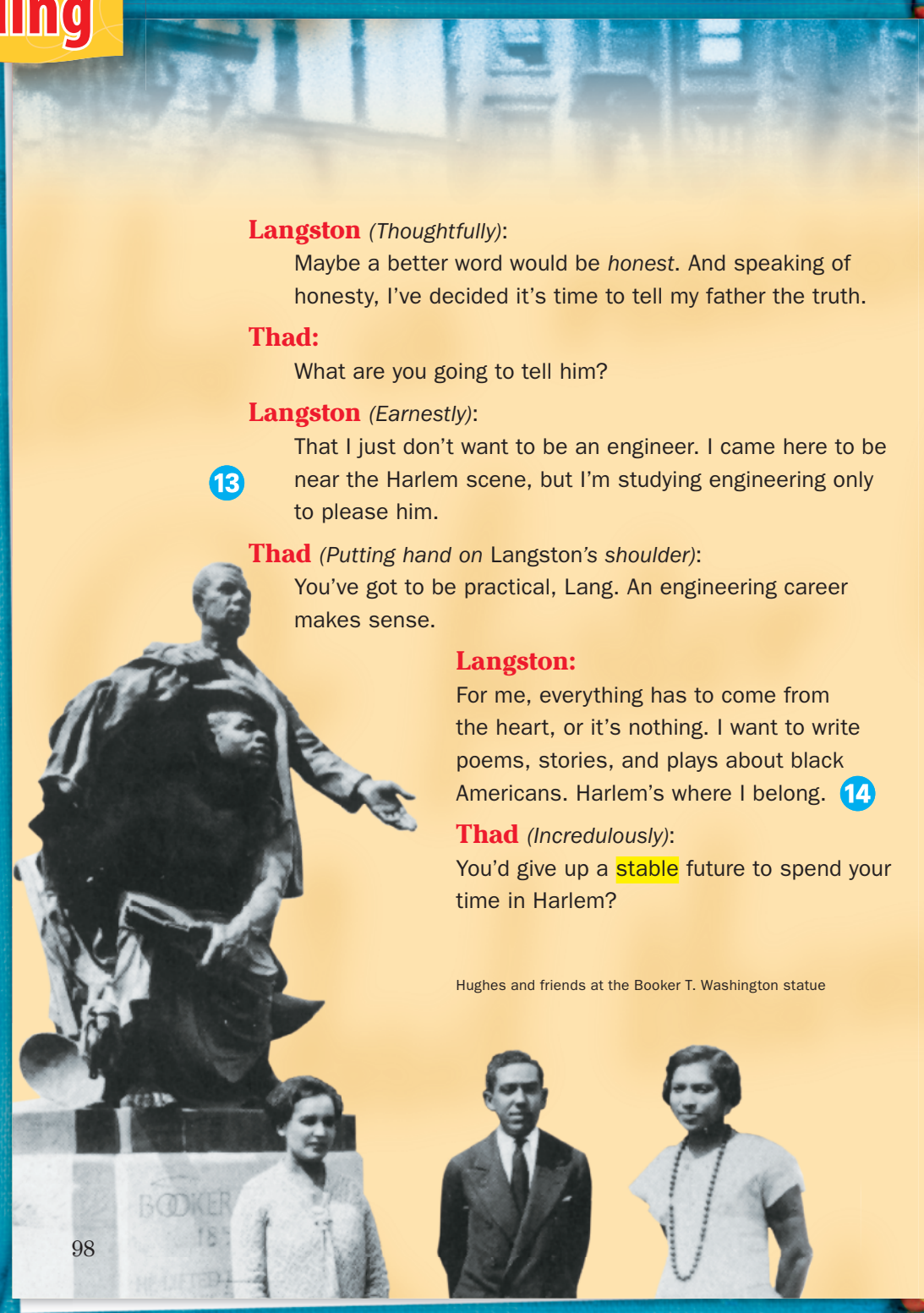
**Inflectional ending:**

plural -es courses

### Differentiating Instruction

#### English Learner

**IF . . .** students are not familiar with U.S. geography, **THEN . . .** use a map or globe to show the location of New York City. Explain that Harlem is a neighborhood in that city.



Hughes and friends at the Booker T. Washington statue

**Langston** (*Thoughtfully*):

Maybe a better word would be *honest*. And speaking of honesty, I've decided it's time to tell my father the truth.

**Thad**:

What are you going to tell him?

**Langston** (*Earnestly*):

That I just don't want to be an engineer. I came here to be near the Harlem scene, but I'm studying engineering only to please him.

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**Thad** (*Putting hand on Langston's shoulder*):

You've got to be practical, Lang. An engineering career makes sense.

**Langston**:

For me, everything has to come from the heart, or it's nothing. I want to write poems, stories, and plays about black Americans. Harlem's where I belong. **14**

**Thad** (*Incredulously*):

You'd give up a **stable** future to spend your time in Harlem?

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## Teacher Tip

**THEME CONNECTIONS** Encourage students to think about the risks Langston has decided to take and what the consequences will be. Why is he willing to accept the consequences? *In giving up on an engineering degree, he has no guarantee that he will be financially successful in his life, and he might lose his relationship with his father forever. He is willing to take these risks to follow his heart and write about black people and their culture.*