

Comprehension Strategies

16 Clarifying Teacher Modeling: *The question we asked at the beginning has just been answered. Langston and his father do not know each other well because his father lived apart from Langston and his mother for years.*

17 Summarizing Teacher Modeling: *A lot happened during Langston's conversation with his father. We should stop here and summarize to make sure we understand everything. After Mr. Hughes expresses his disappointment in Langston's grades, Langston tells his father that he does not want an engineering degree—he wants only to be near Harlem. He plans to quit school and live there to follow his dream to be a writer. Mr. Hughes threatens to cut off his money, but Langston says that he doesn't need it. Mr. Hughes wishes Langston well, but tells him that he is making a mistake. Langston starts to pack.*

Comprehension Check

How does Mr. Hughes react to Langston's decision to follow his dream of writing? *He expresses his disappointment and his doubts that Langston will become a successful writer.*

Differentiating Instruction

English Learner

IF . . . students are confused by the slang expression used on page 100, **THEN . . .** explain that *red cent* literally refers to a penny and figuratively refers to all money. Mr. Hughes is saying he will never give Langston any money if he quits school.

Langston (*Sighing*):

It's time for me to be honest with you. When I came to Columbia, I tried to convince myself that it was to earn a degree, but I really wanted to get to Harlem.

Mr. Hughes (*Bewildered*):

What's Harlem got to do with this?

Langston:

Everything. Thousands of black Americans live in Harlem, and I want to live with them. I have a burning desire to write about black people—our joys, sorrows . . . everything.

Mr. Hughes (*Irritably; rising*):

Langston, are you telling me you want to drop out of Columbia?

Langston (*Calmly*):

Yes. Writing is the only future for me.

Mr. Hughes (*Angrily*):

If you quit school, you won't get another red cent from me.

Langston:

It's not your money I need now, Father.

Mr. Hughes (*Softening*):

Langston, I know I could never make up for all those years when you and your mother lived without me. But I tried to give you this opportunity—a ticket to success. (Langston shakes his head sadly.)

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Langston:

I have to **strive** for success in my own way.