

Risks and Consequences

Theme Connections

Within the Selection

1. What risk does Langston Hughes take in the play?
2. What are the possible consequences of that risk?

Across Selections

3. How is the risk Hughes takes different from that taken by Karana in “Island of the Blue Dolphins”?
4. How is the risk Hughes takes similar to that taken by the Crafts in “Two Tickets to Freedom”?

Beyond the Selection

5. What does “Langston Hughes: Poet of the People” tell you about why people take risks?
6. Name some other risks that do not involve physical danger.

Write about It!

Describe a time you decided to risk someone’s disapproval. What was the result?



Remember to look for poetry and art about risks and consequences to add to the **Concept/Question Board**.

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Writer’s Notebook

WRITE ABOUT IT! Have students use their Writer’s Notebooks to write about a time they decided to risk someone’s disapproval. What was the result?



Teacher Tip

THEME Work with students to identify details in “Langston Hughes: Poet of the People” that develop the theme Risks and Consequences. Ask students to explain how those details develop the theme.

Theme Connections 

Within the Selection

1. What risk does Langston Hughes take in the play? *Langston risks his father’s disapproval when he tells his father that he wants to be a writer.*
2. What are the possible consequences of that risk? *Langston risks his financial stability. He also risks losing his relationship with his father, even if he is successful as a writer.*

Across Selections

3. How is the risk Hughes takes different from that taken by Karana in “Island of the Blue Dolphins”? *Like Karana, Langston takes a risk to find happiness. Her risk is physical, and his is emotional.*
4. How is the risk Hughes takes similar to that taken by the Crafts in “Two Tickets to Freedom”? *Langston and the Crafts take risks that allow them to lead their lives the way they want to lead them, but the consequences of failure are worse for the Crafts than for Langston.*

Beyond the Selection

5. What does “Langston Hughes: Poet of the People” tell you about why people take risks? **Possible Answer** *Not all risks involve physical danger. Sometimes people take risks that have emotional consequences.*
6. Name some other risks that do not involve physical danger. **Possible Answers** *Performers risk failure in public. Artists risk criticism and having their art rejected.*