Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**"Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Well, son, I’ll tell you: Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.  It’s had tacks in it,  And splinters,  And boards torn up,  And places with no carpet on the floor—  Bare.  But all the time  I’se been a-climbin’ on,  And reachin’ landin’s,  And turnin’ corners,  And sometimes goin’ in the dark  Where there ain’t been no light.  So boy, don’t you turn back.  Don’t you set down on the steps  ’Cause you finds it’s kinder hard.  Don’t you fall now—  For I’se still goin’, honey,  I’se still climbin’,  And life for me ain’t been no crystal stair. | 1. Who is the narrator of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Who is the narrator talking to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. What is the theme of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Identify the meaning of the following symbols:   Stairs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tacks/splinters: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Light: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Landings: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   1. What do you think the word “kinder” means in the poem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  |
| 1. What can you infer about the narrator? (Provide textual evidence with your answer).  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Inference** | **Textual Evidence** | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | | |