

Life is Fine

By Langston Hughes

I went down to the river, **A**
 I set down on the bank. **B**
 I tried to think but couldn't, **C**
 So I jumped in and sank. **B**

I came up once and hollered!
 I came up twice and cried!
 If that water hadn't a-been so cold
 I might've sunk and died.

Conclusion
 But it was
 Cold in that water!
 It was cold!

I took the elevator
 Sixteen floors above the ground.
 I thought about my baby
 And thought I would jump down.

I stood there and I hollered!
 I stood there and I cried!
 If it hadn't a-been so high
 I might've jumped and died.

Conclusion
 But it was
 High up there!
 It was high!

Shift in Tone

So since I'm still here livin',
 I guess I will live on.
 I could've died for love--
 But for livin' I was born

Though you may hear me holler,
 And you may see me cry--
 I'll be dogged, sweet baby,
 If you gonna see me die.

Conclusion
 Life is fine!
 Fine as wine!
 Life is fine!

Simile

I went down to the river and sat on the bank to think about my problems, but I couldn't come up with any solutions, so I tried to drown myself.

If the water hadn't been so cold, I would have done it too. But it **was** so cold that all I could do was yell.

I couldn't stay in that water long enough to drown, it was freezing.

The next thing I did was take the elevator up 16 floors. My girl broke my heart, so I'm going to jump and end it all.

I would have jumped too if it hadn't been so high. All I could do was scream and cry.

Man it was just too high up there.

Now that I think on it, since I'm still alive, I might as well go on living. I almost killed myself over love, but I was born to live.

You might see me make a big scene crying and hollering, but there is no way you are going to see me die.

Life is Great! (even if you suck)

Title	Analysis Pyramid
<p>Words and Phrases</p> <p>What words and phrases play an important role in communicating the Author's message?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Author uses words like... because... Words like... and... represent the text because... These words add to the text by... 	<p>The Author uses words like <u>hollered</u>, <u>cried</u>, <u>died</u> to show the drama that is caused by a failing relationship. These words add to the text by reflecting the emotional pain that is experienced by someone going through a break-up.</p>
<p>Tone or Language</p> <p>What is the feeling or attitude communicated through the poem? What language is used to create this feeling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall tone of the text is... I know this because... The author probably chose to use that tone because... 	<p>The tone of this poem in the beginning is <u>despair</u> because for 2/3 of the poem the speaker is attempting suicide. It shifts in the last two stanzas to <u>determination</u> to move on and not let this set-back be the end of him. This is reflected in the title of the poem in the end, "I'll be dogged, sweet baby, / If you gonna see me die... Life is Fine!"</p>
<p>Craft Elements</p> <p>What craft elements do you notice that play a role in the author's purpose (figurative language and sound devices)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The author uses... because... These elements help the reader understand... 	<p>Repetition plays a big role and the poem as the narrator struggles with how to end his life and with the forces that make him reconsider his choice. The water is too cold and the building is too high. It has a consistent ABCB rhyme scheme that mirrors his struggle. The simile in the final stanza punctuates the message of the poem. "Life is Fine! / Fine as wine! / Life is fine!"</p>
<p>Structure</p> <p>What structural elements do you notice? (Stanzas, Rhyme Scheme) How are the ideas organized throughout the poem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The author organizes the text by... I know this because... The author probably organized the text this way because... 	<p>The narrator begins this poem in a state of despair as he is looking for ways to kill himself after a painful break-up. Each attempt he is forced to reconsider. Three pairs of stanzas are each followed by a conclusion. A shift in tone takes place after two attempts, when he realizes that he can move on from this and go on with his life.</p>
<p>Theme</p> <p>What is the author's message about life that he/she is sending the audience through this poem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme of the poem is... I know this because... The author probably chose to express this theme because... 	<p>This poem is about the importance of taking the time to think through your problems. Regardless of how bad you think you may have it, nothing is worth killing yourself over. In fact, if you give yourself time, you will see how stupid that decision is. Regardless of how bad things may get, giving yourself time to think will help you see that life is always worth living.</p>