

## Mississippi—1955

Langston Hughes

(To the Memory of Emmett Till)

Oh what sorrow!

oh, what pity!

Oh, what pain

That tears and blood

Should mix like rain

And terror come again

To Mississippi.

Come again?

Where has terror been?

On vacation? Up North?

In some other section

Of the nation,

Lying low, unpublicized?

Masked—with only

Jaundiced eyes

Showing through the mask?

Oh, what sorrow,

Pity, pain,

That tears and blood

Should mix like rain

In Mississippi!

And terror, fetid hot,

Yet clammy cold

Remain.

