

In a Year 7 English class, girls returned to their study of African American poets, which they began earlier as part of their contextual exploration of Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. The style and structure of Langston Hughes's 'Harlem' proved inspirational for two Year 7 poets.

SANITY

What happens when sanity runs out?

Does it rush out of you like air from a popped balloon?

Has it gone away yet? Will it soon?

Does it run out of you like a lively stream?

Singing and screaming "It's good to be free"?

Does it slowly drip out of you like an old broken tap?

Lazily, sluggishly, as if taking a nap?

Does it snap all at once

With a loud ringing crack?

Or does it, all of a sudden, silently step back?

Isabella, Y7

What happens to a hate that is overcome?

Does it come back now and then

Like a storm in the sky?

Or is it like a grey cloud,

That simply comes by?

Does it burn like tired coal?

Or does it fight for breath

Like a drowning soul?

What if it spreads,

Like blackness at night?

Or does it just lurk in the shadows,

Waiting for light?

Alice, Y7