***Mother to Son***

**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.

***Speech to the Young***

**Gwendolyn Brooks**

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Say to them,  
say to the down-keepers,  
the sun-slappers,  
the self-soilers,  
the harmony-hushers,  
"even if you are not ready for day  
it cannot always be night."  
You will be right.  
For that is the hard home-run.  
  
Live not for battles won.  
Live not for the-end-of-the-song.  
Live in the along.

* + **Reading One: Read independently.**

Respond: *to what is life being compared?*

* + **Reading Two: Identify figurative language** 
    - Underline phrases that contribute.
    - Circle words that are part of the dialect use
  + **Reading Three** (HW): Read “Speech to the Young”. Complete Steps One and Two.
    - ***How are the themes of these two poems similar? Support your answer.***