ENG257 African American Lit
Weekly Reading and Writing #5

READING

Tuesday:
- *Harlem Renaissance, 1919 – 1940*, pages 953 – 962
- Alain Locke and *The New Negro*, pages 983 – 993

Thursday:
- *The Blues*: pages 48 – 49

Writing Choices: Choose two from the following (each ½ page single-spaced); choose two different topics (preferably one from Tuesday’s reading and one from Thursday’s reading):

- Listen (link on our class website) to Hughes read “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (page 1267). What in particular moves you about this poem? What details would you choose if you were writing this poem about your own culture, your own heritage? (Would you like to write that poem? Compose a poem of your own using his poem’s framework.) Then write about the importance of heritage in his life and yours.
- Do some research on the Harlem Renaissance and write about Hughes’ contribution/participation/importance in it.
- Characterize Locke’s description of *The New Negro* and place this discussion in the context of the *Renaissance*.
- Among the tropes that we have recognized, which do you find in Hughes’ or Locke’s works?