**“Democracy” by Langston Hughes**

*1Democracy will not come
Today, this year
Nor ever
Through compromise and fear.

5I have as much right
As the other fellow has
To stand
On my two feet
And own the land.

10I tire so of hearing people say,
Let things take their course.
Tomorrow is another day.
I do not need my freedom when I'm dead.
I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

15Freedom
Is a strong seed
Planted
In a great need.

19I live here, too.
I want freedom
Just as you.*

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**Analysis Questions:**

1. How would you describe the speaker's tone in the poem? What word choices give you your ideas? What does his tone tell us about the intended audience for this poem?

1. What does the speaker mean when he talks about "tomorrow's bread"? How is this metaphor?

1. Why is freedom described in the poem as a "strong seed"? How does the imagery of a planted seed relate to the poem's themes of freedom and democracy?

**Connect to the Unit Questions:**

1. How does the theme of this poem connect with the theme of “Waves of Change”?

1. This poem was written in 1949. What is the historical context behind Langston Hughes message? How is the poem relevant today, in 2017?

**Analysis Questions:**

1. How would you describe the speaker's tone in the poem? What word choices give you your ideas? What does his tone tell us about the intended audience for this poem?
2. What does the speaker mean when he talks about "tomorrow's bread"? How is tomorrow's bread a metaphor for the need for freedom?
3. Why is freedom described in the poem as a "strong seed"? How does the imagery of a planted seed relate to the poem's themes of freedom and democracy?

**Connect to the Unit Questions:**

1. How does the theme of this poem connect with the theme of “Waves of Change”?
2. This poem was written in 1949. What is the historical context behind Langston Hughes message? How is the poem relevant today, in 2016?