

ASL 3 & 4 Poetry

- *Harlem* by Langston Hughes
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULv5HL0opgY>

ASL Gloss:

WONDER DREAMS VISUALIZE GRAB HOLD-BACK HAPPEN WHAT HUH
WITHER-UP SAME-AS GRAPES SUN-SHINE HUH
POINT EXPAND SAME-AS BLISTER-N FAC EXPAND LEAK-DOWN HUH
WHAT GRAPE FESTER SMELL POINT SAME AS MEAT RUINED HUH
WHAT CRUST GRAPES SAME-AS CANDY SYRUPY DRIP HUH
MAYBE POINT WHAT DROOP DROP-DOWN SAME-AS BURDEN
MAYBE HUH POINT HOLD-EXPLODE

English meaning:

This poem is about the limitations of the American Dream for African Americans. He shares the hopes, aspirations, frustrations, and discontent within the New York ghetto.

- *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr7xI_qFzDs

ASL Gloss:

MAYBE YOU LOOK-ME MYSELF PUT-DOWN SLOPPOY LIES MAKE-UP X2
DIRT AROUND STRESS STEP STEP DOESN'T-MATTER STILL DIRT DUST RISE-UP WILL
LOOK-ME HOLD-ON DEPRESS WHY I NO-NO WALK STILL LIVE ROOM THERE OIL PUMP
SQUIRT-OUT WEALTHY CONTINUE SAME SUN-RISE SUN-SET WAVES CONTINUE SAME
HOPE HIGH HIGHER HIGHER RISE WILL
LOOK-ME DEPRESS BROKEN-DOWN HEAD-DOWN LOO-DOWN LONLEY CRY HEART
CRY-OUT EXPRESS-YOU ATTITUDE OFFEND-YOU HUH
YOU HIT-HARD HEAD EYE-OPEN LAUGH WHY
HOME THERE GOLD LOTS WEALTHY
WORDS SHOT-TOWARDS ME LOOK-ME LOWER VOMIT HIT-ME-HEART
DOESN'T-MATTER STILL I AIR RISE WILL
FLIP-HAIR YOU UPSET YOU SURPRISE HEAD THROW-BACK
I DANCE SAME-AS POINT-DOWN SHINY x2 SHIMMER
HISTORY EMBARRASSING HOUSE-JAIL RELEASE I RISE WILL
SINCE PAIN ROOTED UNROOTED REBEL I OCEAN STRONG BLACK
WAVES X2 OVER I-HIT SCARED NIGHTS PUSH-ASIDE SWELL-UP
SUN-RISE CLEAR-VISION RISE PAST GIVE ME OPPRESSION RELEASE
DREAM HOPE GIVE-OUT I REBEL I ENVISION I RISE

English meaning:

This poem is a powerful poem about the struggle to overcome prejudice and injustice. It is meant to be a beacon of hope for the oppressed and downtrodden.

- *On a Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILNMnrhlarc>

ASL Gloss:

THESE TREES WHO THEMSELVES I THINK I KNOW UNDERSTAND HOUSE HOME
WHERE FAR COMMUNITY THERE MEANS NOT NOTICE MYSELF I EXCEPTIONS
CALM LOOK-AROUND TREE TREE SNOW RISE-UP MY HORSE SMALL THHINKING

STRANGE I PULL-BACK REINS HORSE STOP PROVE NONE HOUSE AREA NONE
TREE AREA THERE-WATER AREA FROZEN NOW NIGHT MOST DARK NIGHT YEAR-
ROUND ALL-YEAR HORSE REINS BELLS SHAKE RING LOOK-LEFT WRONG WHAT I
QUIET OTHER SOUND AROUND WHAT WIND WIND WHITE SNOW FALL-DOWN
SNOWFLAKE TREE TREE THERE BEAUTIFUL DARK DEEP ALL-AROUND TREE
HOLD-ON I PROMISE RESPONSIBLE NEED TAKE-UP RESPONSIBLE SAME-AS HAVE
WHAT FAR-THERE ARRIVE SLEEP HAVE WHAT FAR ARRIVE SLEEP REST

English meaning:

This is a satire poem about a man eating a plum that was someone else's and then apologizing for it. Even though the subject is so simple and the poem is short, this poem still has poetic devices and meaning. A symbol used in this poem are the plums: "I have eaten/the plums/that were in/the icebox." Even though the word "plums" is only used once in the poem, every line after refers to them. So the plums symbolize premature death of an object or person. Within the few lines of this poem, Williams still manages to set the setting through the poem by two words: plums and ice box. She sets the setting in a kitchen and perhaps the poem is a note that the narrator left for the person who was saving the plums for breakfast?

- *Hope is the Thing with Feathers* by Emily Dickinson
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-98kOz7h_3g

ASL Gloss:

HOPE FLY FLUTTER SOUL SIT SING HEART
INSPIRE WORDS NEED NONE CONTINUE BREATH SING INSPIRE
WIND PATIENT INSPIRE PRECIOUS (know-that) I IMAGINE LIGHTNING
STORM TORNADO LIGHTNING x3 FOR SMALL BIRD LITTLE INSPIRE-INSPIRE
CL:G (people) MANY SCATTERED INSPIRE SINCE LAND THERE COLD
TOUCH-HEART INSPIRE SEA THERE AREA DON'T-KNOW INSPIRE SINCE
DOESN'T MATTER PATIENT x3 SMALL FLAP-AWAY TAP SHOULDER MUST
GIVE (small) EXCHANGE NONE

English meaning:

This poem is about simplicity. It is a depiction of a lovely scene in near silence. One wants to linger, but responsibilities pull them away.

- *Tyger, Tyger Away* by William Blake
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzJ0IV-RoQE>

ASL Gloss:

TIGER TIGER TREE ALL NIGHT NOTICE LOUD COLOR BRIGHT WONDER
WHAT LOOK-LIKE LOOK-LIKE SHAPE SAME AWFUL I I
YOUR EYES SHINY SHIMMERY FROM WONDER HARD FORM DEEP WHAT
HEAVEN UP-ABOVE YOU IMAGINE GOAL THIS WONDER YOU SHAPE HANDS
GRAB TAKE-UP THIS SHOULDER ARM ARIT IMAGINE CREATE FORM TWIST
MAKE THIS HEART-BEAT POINT WONDER THIS-HEART WONDER SOMEONE
GO-UP THIS HAND WONDER HAMMER WONDER CHAIN-PULL OPEN-UP

FURNACE (FIRE) THINK BRAIN WONDER TABLE THINK WHAT AWFUL
HANDS AWUL THAT GRASP HOLD-ON SHAPE THINK STAR ABOVE THERE
SHOOT-DOWN CRY HEAVENLY RAIN WONDER UP-THERE LOOK-DOWN
SMILE TRUE WORK THAT SAME-AS LAMB FORM (with soft expression) POSE
(as lamb) MAKE YOU STRIPES POINTED CLAWING THERE TIGER TIGER
TREES ALL NIGHT NOTICE LOUD COLOR IMAGINE WONDER WHAT LOOK-
LIKE THINK FOREVER FORM SAME-AS AWFUL TRUE POUND-CHEST

English meaning:

This poem questions the creator responsible for creating the fearsome tiger.
The fiery imagery of the tiger equates the danger and fear.

- *Litany* by Billy Collins (duet only)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHhFA1kP4lc>

ASL Gloss:

YOU BREAD LOAF

YOU KNIFE CUT

YOU GLASS GOBLET

YOU WINE (uncork) POUR

DRINK HORIZON SUN-RISE

SMELL GRASS

WET DEW SPARKLE SHIMMER

SUN

SHINY

SUN-SET

PUT-IN-OVEN

TIE APRON

POKE-FIRE

LAND WET AREA MANY-CROWDED

FLY-AWAY

TREE FRUIT PULL-OFF X3 TREE ROWS

ME WIND

NO-NO

THERE TABLE PLUMS IN-ROW

STEAL

SLAP HAND NOT

DEAL-CARDS SET-UP HOUSE-UP

BLOW-DOWN

FALL-OVER

TAP-SHOULDER YOU TREE PINE SMELL

BLOW-DOWN

GRAB NOSE-NO-NO THAT SMELL BEAUTIFUL YOU IMPOSSIBLE

HOLD-ON POSSIBLE YOU WHAT BRIDGE FISH SWIM-UP SWIM WELL

YOU MAYBE CAPTAIN SHAPE SET-UP STAND STRAIGHT BIRD ATOP HEAD

YOU POINT WELL

WELL GRASS-AREA FLOWER ROWS BLUE AREA YOU SAME-AS NOT BARELY
CLOSE
MIRROR
GRAB-SHOW MIRROR
MYSELF
CORNER THERE BOOTS THERE
POINT ME
GRAB HAND DOWN SHAKE-NO
HOUSE
BOAT MY BOAT
MYSELF
GRAB HAND
NO
HEY LET-YOU-KNOW DISCUSS WORLD VISION SEE-SEE DIFFERENT
DIFFERENT WORLD INSIDE KNOW-THAT MYSELF WHAT
ROOF
RAIN RAIN PITTER-PATTER RAIN SOUND MYSELF
HEY I STARS MANY-MANY BRIGHT SHOOT-DOWN
CATCH OPEN NEWSPAPER OPEN
STREET
WIND BLOW THROUGH
WIND BASKET
TABLE
NUTS MANY GRAB MYSELF SHINE-ON SHIRT TREES
MYSELF MOONSHINE DOWN ILLUMINATE
(pull back from glaring light) WOMAN
CUP
SEE NONE FEEL-FOR CUP GRAB DRINK
WORRY (don't) I NOT BREAK
MYSELF NOT KNIFE CUT BREAD
YOU STILL BREAD LOAF
YOU STILL KNIFE CUT BREAD
YOU FOREVER BREAD LOAF
YOU FOREVER KNIFE CUT BREAD
DON'T FORGET GLASS
YOU STILL WINE CORK POP POUR FILL-UP GLASS
GRAB HAND
KISS HAND

English meaning:

This poem is a repetitive series of statements associated with Christian ritual. The list is used to flatter a loved one, to amuse and puzzle each other. It is dark and quirky, transparent, and wise.