

## **Still Here**

Still Here is a poem by Langston Hughes. The poem conveys the perseverance and unwavering strength of the African American community in the face of adversity. The poet begins by recounting experiences of fear and punishment, symbolized by being 'scared and battered'. The Black community's hope has been shattered by a violent wind similar to this anguish.

The use of 'I' by the poet not only represents the poet's persona but also her race. Deliberate misspellings challenge White Supremacy, serving as a form of rebellion by Black individuals. The poet vividly illustrates the harshness faced by blacks through phrases like "Snow has friz me", "Sun has baked me". Snow and sun represent extreme adversity, suggesting that Blacks endured isolation and physical abuse that crushed their hope.

Despite the trials, the poet remains steadfast in refusing to succumb or be broken by life's challenges. The poet describes the tireless effort of Whites to break the spirit of slaves. They tried to stop their laughter, love, and the essence of life itself. The refrain, "But I don't care! I'm still here!" serves as a triumphant declaration of their resilience against all odds.

The poem Still Here is a tribute to the strength and stubbornness of African Americans who have endured centuries of discrimination, oppression, and adversity in America. It is also a testament to the perseverance of individuals who have endured racism and hardship, refusing to be defeated or silenced.