

Harlem Echoes Answer Key

1. Message Without History

- Model Answer: The poem communicates a message of resilience and determination, where the speaker asserts belonging in America despite being excluded.

2. Harlem Renaissance Influence

- Model Answer: The Harlem Renaissance was a time when African American writers, artists, and musicians celebrated Black culture and pushed back against racism. This context shows that the poem is part of a larger cultural movement.

3. Historical Impact

- Model Answer: Knowing the poem was written in the 1920s highlights the reality of segregation. It makes the speaker's confidence and vision of equality even more powerful and defiant.

4. Expression of Hope

- Model Answer: The poem expresses hope that one day the speaker will be recognized and valued equally. During the Harlem Renaissance, this would have inspired African American readers by affirming their place in the national identity.

5. Synthesis Paragraph

- Model Answer: Historical context helps readers see that the poem is not just about one person being excluded but about a community demanding recognition in a segregated society. The Harlem Renaissance gave Black writers a voice, and this poem becomes a declaration of pride and hope for equality. Understanding this history makes the poem more powerful and significant.

Teacher Note: Emphasize that context provides depth. Students should connect historical background (segregation, Harlem Renaissance pride) to interpretation.