**Mother Poetry**

Read the below poem carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the poet describes the complex feelings a mother has for her child. You may choose to analyze Angelou’s use of biblical allusion, imagery and repetition.

The Mothering Blackness, Maya Angelou

She came home running

       back to the mothering blackness

       deep in the smothering blackness

white tears icicle gold plains of her face

       She came home running

She came down creeping

       here to the black arms waiting

       now to the warm heart waiting

rime of alien dreams befrosts her rich brown face

       She came down creeping

She came home blameless

       black yet as Hagar’s daughter

       tall as was Sheba’s daughter

threats of northern winds die on the desert’s face

       She came home blameless

Read the below poem carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the speaker describes the struggles in life. You may wish to use such literary devices as metaphor, symbol, and details.

Mother to Son, Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor—  
Bare.  
But all the time   
I'se been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark

Where there ain't been no light.  
So, boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps.  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now—  
For I'se still goin', honey,  
I'se still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.