

"Weary" Blues and the Lyrical

- He can't know the Blues musician, but they definitely have a personal relationship. Does he understand him on an emotional level through his music?
- He may have seen a Blues performance and used that musician as an inspiration
- Is there a similarity between the musician and the speaker and Stein and Picasso? The musician and Picasso are both in the middle of a huge artistic upheaval, innovators in their field. Does that mean that the speaker and Stein are related?
- Diction: moan, croon, and fool - why use these words? They cast a negative pall on the jazz
- Blues can be seen in repetition and rhyme scheme, imagery (describing his hands the ivory keys of the piano). Additionally, the moan of the piano symbolizes personification. Is the identity of the old man meant to serve as a metaphor. Alliteration (poor piano)
- The speaker and the musician may be strangers, but the speaker may just projecting his feelings on to the musician.
- He described things with negative adjectives (rickety, moan). Is the musician a homeless and the speaker is just observing him as he passes by?
- The speaker gives the musician a voice. His music will be carried on through his poem.
- What is the musician's purpose? He may be in the midst of an identity crisis. Is he projecting himself on to the musician
- He switches between using "Negro" and "Black Man" to describe the musician. Is this reflective of society norms? Added to the contrast between ivory keys and black hands, this could further the theory of an identity crisis
- Is Hughes using the ivory and ebony contrast in the work to appeal to the sorrow of the Black man at his lack of equality.
- Look at the ambiguity in the first three lines? Who is rocking back and forth? How does this ambiguity relate back to Stein
- The tone is may be melancholy and sad. There is a lot of tension in the tone. The passion in the work is displayed when he says "O Blues!"