## WORDS LIKE FREEDOM / DREAMS

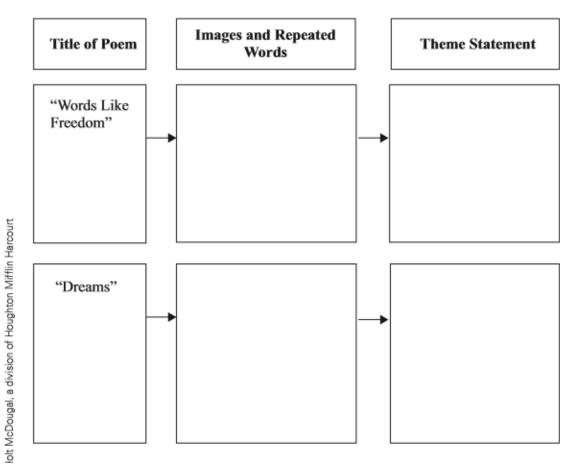
## **Text Analysis**

## THEME IN POETRY

Poems often contain a theme, or message about life. To identify a poem's theme, look at

- · the title, which may suggest the poem's focus
- · a poem's images, which often help to convey its theme
- repeated words and phrases, which tell you how the speaker, or voice of the poem, feels

**Directions:** In the diagram, write the words and phrases in each poem that help you identify the theme. Then write a theme statement for each poem.



- 1. At the end of "Words Like Freedom," the speaker says, "If you had known what I know / You would know why." What do you think the speaker knows ? Cite two details to support your analysis
- 2. Compare the themes in "Words Like Freedom" and "Dreams." <u>What message do you think</u> <u>Hughes is trying to convey?</u> Cite two details to support your analysis