

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.

Title of Poem	Images and Repeated Words	Theme Statement
"Words Like Freedom"		
"Dreams"		

Iolt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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." **What message do you think Hughes is trying to convey?** Cite two details to support your analysis