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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
1979 Volume I: The Stranger and Modern Fiction: A Portrait in Black and White

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## **The Stranger Redeemed: A Portrait of a Black Poet**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 79.01.03  
by Ivory Erkerd

It is the Black “stranger” of modern fiction that the American culture has more recently decided to study. Examples can be found in Toomer’s “Cane,” Richard Wright’s “Native Son,” Ralph Ellison’s “Invisible Man.” Langston Hughes gave Black characters a reality, a wholeness that had been lacking in earlier novels and poetry. The stranger, in Hughes, is one who experiences deep desire and longing, but not unfulfillment. His characters are sufferers with redeeming graces. The unit summarizes themes of alienation found in Hughes’ novels and poetry.

(Designed for Middle School English classes, grades 7 and 8.)

### **Key Words**

*Biography Langston Hughes Afro-Americans Literature*

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