

## **“One-Way Ticket”**

by Langston Hughes

I pick up my life  
And take it with me  
And I put it down in  
Chicago, Detroit,  
Buffalo, Scranton,  
Any place that is North and East—  
And not Dixie.

I pick up my life  
And take it on the train  
To Los Angeles, Bakersfield,  
Seattle, Oakland, Salt Lake,  
Any place that is  
North and West—  
And not South.

I am fed up  
With Jim Crow laws,  
People who are cruel  
And afraid,  
Who lynch and run,  
Who are scared of me  
And me of them.

I pick up my life  
And take it away  
On a one-way ticket—  
Gone up North,  
Gone out West,  
Gone!