

WHY I READ

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I read because it's an adventurous thing.
I hug a book like it's a **DIAMOND RING**.
I read lyrics that make me want to **SING!**
And fly real high with my literary **WINGS**.

Sometimes I read like **CRAZY**.
Can't call us readers **LAZY**.
Sometimes I read real **FAST**,
Sometimes, though, I read **SLOW**,
to make the **STORY LAAAST!**

When I open a book, I **OPEN A DOOR**
to destinations both near and far away –
EXOTIC, mountainous, tranquil, bustling,
at least that's what the authors say.
I take their word for it, 'cause they know how to make
MY IMAGINATION come out **TO PLAY**.

When I open a book, I see **DEAD PEOPLE**,
and alive ones too! They're driving fast cars, gazing at stars,
and **DOING THE BOOGALOO!**

I read to answer questions that shatter **MY SLEEP**.
Reading dissolves puzzles for me that run **DEEP-SEA DEEP**.
I read with the excitement of summer and **SPRING**.
I read 'cause ain't nothing better I can do for this **BRAIN!**
I read with hope that for better
our world will soon **CHANGE!**
I read myself right into the magic of my lifelong **DREAMS!**
I read because it gives me information that I don't know.
I read **LANGSTON HUGHES' POETRY** 'cause **THE BROTHER'S GOT FLOW**.

I read to find **THE LIGHT!**
Sometimes it's out of **MY SIGHT!**
I read when **IT'S HARD!**
I got books by **THE YARD!**
I read when it's silent,
Just me **BY MYSELF**.

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I read by accident, you know,
just like **EVERYBODY ELSE!**

I will **NEVER** stop reading, no matter the struggle or strife.
See, my ancestors hardly got the chance.
So **THAT'S INSPIRATION** for the rest of my life.
Nobody will cut my ears if they **SEE ME WITH A BOOK**,
Or slice my back **WITH WHIPS** that bend me to shame.
Reading helps me shape **MY FUTURE** and boldly reclaim
our people's **PROUD HISTORY**. We are no longer in **CHAINS!**

So wipe your weeping eyes.
I read because **MAYA ANGELOU** told us we've got reason to **RISE**.
I **RISE** and I read because reading **SETS ME FREE** and free I plan to stay.
So if you don't like my reading, friend, **ADIOS**, and **BONNE JOURNEE**.