

Rivers Symbolism handout

A Negro Speaks of Rivers is a poem written in **first-person narration**. When the **first-person** is used in writing it means that the speaker is speaking about himself or herself. Using this information, answer the questions below.

1. Even though the poem is written in **first-person**, who do you think is the speaker in the poem? Explain below.
2. How can the speaker have "known" the different rivers at different times in history?
3. Is the speaker a symbol of something or someone other than himself or herself? Why or why not?
4. Are the rivers a symbol of something other than rivers? Why or why not?