

## 'A Rightful Sonship Here'

Read the poem on the reverse, then answer the questions below.

1. What specifically is J.W. Johnson referring to in this passage?

*Look farther back! Three centuries!  
To where a naked, shivering score,  
Snatched from their haunts across the seas,  
Stood, wild-eyed, on Virginia's shore*

2. Many historians see this verse as the inspiration for the Harlem Renaissance.

*No! stand erect and without fear,  
And for our foes let this suffice —  
We've bought a rightful sonship here,  
And we have more than paid the price.*

What do you think Johnson means by a "rightful sonship"? In the context of the rest of the poem, how does Johnson characterize the place of African Americans in U.S. culture, 50 years after emancipation?

3. For 20 points, Explore the Harlem Renaissance through independent research, and compare it to the Lost Generation. How did a fundamental disagreement with American culture fuel both movements? You may present your findings in an essay or another creative avenue of choice.