

POETRY: *A Magazine of Verse*

BLUES

HARD LUCK

When hard luck overtakes you
Nothin' for you to do.

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Nothin' for you to do.

Gather up yo' fine clothes
An' sell 'em to de Jew.

Jew takes yo' fine clothes,
Gives you a dollar an' a half.

Jew takes yo' fine clothes,
Gives you a dollar an' a half.

Go to de bootleg's,
Git some gin to make you laugh.

If I was a mule I'd
Git me a wagon to haul.

If I was a mule I'd
Git me a wagon to haul.

I'm so low down I
Ain't even got a stall.

PO' BOY BLUES

When I was home de
Sunshine seemed like gold.
When I was home de
Sunshine seemed like gold.
Since I come up North de
Whole damn world's turned cold.

I was a good boy,
Never done no wrong.
Yes, I was a good boy,
Never done no wrong.
But this world is weary
An' de road is hard an' long.

I fell in love with
A gal I thought was kind,
Fell in love with
A gal I thought was kind.
She made me lose ma money
An' almost lose ma mind.

Weary, weary,
Weary early in de morn.
Weary, weary,
Early, early in de morn.
I's so weary
I wish I'd never been born.

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RED ROSES

I'm waitin' for de springtime
When de tulips grow—
Sweet, sweet springtime
When de tulips grow;
Cause if I'd die in de winter
They'd bury me under snow.

Un'neath de snow, Lawd,
Oh, what would I do?
Un'neath de snow,
I say what would I do?
It's bad enough to die but
I don't want freezin' too.

I'm waitin' for de springtime
An' de roses red,
Waitin' for de springtime
When de roses red
'Ll make a nice coverin'
Fer a gal that's dead.

Langston Hughes

SUICIDE

Ma sweet good man has
Packed his trunk an' left.
Ma sweet good man has
Packed his trunk an' left.
Nobody to love me:
I'm gonna kill ma self.

I'm gonna buy me a knife with
A blade ten inches long,
Gonna buy me a knife with
A blade ten inches long.
Shall I carve ma self or
That man that done me wrong?

'Lieve I'll jump in de river
Eighty-nine feet deep.
'Lieve I'll jump in de river
Eighty-nine feet deep,
Cause de river's quiet
And a po', po' gal can sleep.

Langston Hughes