“Mother to Son” “Mother to Son”

by Langston Hughes by Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you: Well, son, I'll tell you:

Life for me ain't been no crystal stair. Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

It's had tacks in it, It's had tacks in it,

And splinters, And splinters,

And boards torn up, And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor— And places with no carpet on the floor—

Bare. Bare.

But all the time But all the time

I'se been a-climbin' on, I'se been a-climbin' on,

And reachin' landin's, And reachin' landin's,

And turnin' corners, And turnin' corners,

And sometimes goin' in the dark And sometimes goin' in the dark

Where there ain't been no light. Where there ain't been no light.

So, boy, don't you turn back. So, boy, don't you turn back.

Don't you set down on the steps. Don't you set down on the steps.

'Cause you finds it's kinder hard. 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.

Don't you fall now— Don't you fall now—

For I'se still goin', honey, For I'se still goin', honey,

I'se still climbin', I'se still climbin',

And life for me ain't been no crystal stair. And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.