

Questions for Robert Hayden sonnets:

1. Read each poem out loud. Notice any change in tone or voice as you read. Also notice if the poem encourages changes in emphasis, volume or speed.
2. Try to read/view each of Hayden's sonnets through the lens/filter of what we have learned about the traditional and evolving sonnet form. Consider such things as the 1) historical forms, 2) the number of lines, 3) the typographical arrangement on the page, 4) the rhyme scheme, 5) the rhythm, 6) rhetorical, poetic devices, 7) syntax and word choice 8) thematic development, 9) the structure of an argument (plot or events unfolding line by line/stanza by stanza), 10) the placement of the volta.

How has Robert Hayden adhered to the sonnet form and how has he modified it?

3. What emotions are expressed/evoked in each poem? How does Hayden convey those emotions? Is there tension or conflict in the poems? Are the tensions evident/obvious or hidden/implied?