

Poetry Analysis: Line by Line

A poem—and each line in it—can be interpreted in many different ways. That’s what makes reading and discussing poetry so worthwhile! In this activity, you will think about how each line in Lauryn Hill’s poem relates to African-Americans’ struggle for freedom and equality. Then, you’ll answer critical thinking questions, connecting “Everything Is Everything” to your own life.

Directions: Fill in the columns below. We did the first one for you.

What Lauryn Wrote	What I Think It Means	How It Relates to The Struggle for Freedom & Equality
<p>1. Sometimes it seems We'll touch that dream But things come slow or not at all</p>	<p>It's hard to accomplish your dreams. Sometimes, change takes a long time. Other times, nothing changes at all.</p>	<p>African-Americans fought for many years for freedom and equal rights. Although they had hope, sometimes it seemed like nothing would ever change.</p>
<p>2. And the ones on top, won't make it stop So convinced that they might fall</p>		
<p>3. Let's love ourselves then we can't fail To make a better situation</p>		
<p>4. Tomorrow, our seeds will grow All we need is dedication</p>		
<p>5. After winter, must come spring Change, it comes eventually</p>		

Continued

Critical Thinking

1. Describe a time in your life when it seemed like you might "touch a dream."

**2. Was there something that prevented you from accomplishing your goal?
How did that make you feel?**

3. Was there someone who helped you "make a better situation" out of it or did you find a way to overcome the obstacle on your own?

4. Did change "come eventually" for you? What did you learn about yourself as a result of the situation?

5. What does the phrase "Everything is everything; What is meant to be, will be" mean to you? Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
