

October 2017

# Our Mail: Dr. Cooper Doesn't Like the Hughes Poem

Follow this and additional works at: [http://dh.howard.edu/ajc\\_published](http://dh.howard.edu/ajc_published)

---

## Recommended Citation

"Our Mail: Dr. Cooper Doesn't Like the Hughes Poem" (2017). *Published Materials by Anna J. Cooper*. 14.  
[http://dh.howard.edu/ajc\\_published/14](http://dh.howard.edu/ajc_published/14)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Anna Julia Cooper Collection at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Published Materials by Anna J. Cooper by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact [lopez.matthews@howard.edu](mailto:lopez.matthews@howard.edu).

## DR. COOPER DOESN'T LIKE THE HUGHES POEM

Editor, Tribune:

I think it a pity that the high note of your editorial page should be vitiated by a selection that presents the very opposite ideal from the one you so ably advocate.

That so serious minded a paper as the Tribune, which condemns Amos 'n' Andy as pernicious propaganda and a vicious caricature of the race, should allow "Midnight Nan" to "strutt and wiggle" through the same page where-on we find earnest advice for "Children's Reading" must surely have been an oversight. A full survey of Langston Hughes' poetry ought to furnish, I am sure, some samples of his genius more in keeping with the high standard announced by the Tribune than this nauseating portrait of a colored prostitute. My criticism is not against Hughes for writing about whatever he sees and happens to know; but I do object to pictures of the gutter and sewer being culled and paraded by preference from all the ennobling and inspiring examples of art that present themselves — examples that are just as true to life, just as humanly appealing, and just as artistically acceptable.

Walt Whitman did much that was coarse and vulgar in his poetic creations, but one has to wade through his unexpurgated works to find it. You will not be confronted with the filth of "Leaves of Grass" on the editorial pages of a cosmopolitan newspaper, and this is not from race squeamishness either, but a mere matter of literary taste and fine selection according to the eternal fitness of things.

Anna J. Cooper.