Why is Langston Hughes a Notable Kansan?

Langston Hughes, the “Negro Poet Laureate,” spent his life advocating for equality and justice.

1. Image credit: Langston Hughes, Library of Congress.

Hughes, a member of the Harlem Renaissance writers, wrote about the America he knew often revealing the sadness of poverty and segregation.
Langston Hughes, the noted writer of novels, stories, poems and plays about Negro life, died last night in Polyclinic Hospital at the age of 65.

Mr. Hughes was sometimes characterized as the "O. Henry of Harlem." He was an extremely versatile and productive author who was particularly well known for his folksy humor.

In a description of himself written for "Twentieth Century Authors," a biographical dictionary, Mr. Hughes wrote:

“My chief literary influences have been Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Carl Sandburg and Walt Whitman. My favorite public figures include Jimmy Durante, Marlene Dietrich, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Marian Anderson and Henry Armstrong.”