Langston Hughes

LAUGHERS

Dream-singers,
Story-tellers,
Dancers,
Loud laughers in the hands of Fate –
    My people.
Dish-washers,
Elevator-boys,
Ladies' maids,
Crap-shooters,
Cooks,
Waiters,
Jazzers,
Nurses of babies,
Loaders of ships,
Rounders,
Number writers,
Comedians in vaudeville
And band-men in circuses –
Dream-singers all, –
    My people.
Story-tellers all, –
My people.
    Dancers –
God!  What dancers!
    Singers –
God!  What singers!
Singers and dancers
Dancers and laughers.
    Laughers?
Yes, laughers ... laughers ... laughers –
Loud-mouthed laughers in the hands
    Of Fate.
Response Questions

LAUGHERS

- Hughes describes many different kinds of jobs in this poem. What do they all have in common?

- Hughes was known to love music, especially jazz. Write down three qualities that poetry shares with music.