“Madam and the Rent Man”

by Langston Hughes

The rent man knocked.

He said, Howdy-do?

***Background:***

*This poem is set in Harlem, a section of New York City where most people live in rented apartments.*

I said, What

Can I do for you?

He said, You know

What is the **tone** of this poem? Circle words that help you determine the tone.

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Your rent is due.

I said, Listen,

Before I’d pay

I’d go to Hades

What type of conflict is in this story? Write the TAG statement stating it.

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And rot away!

The sink is broke,

The water don’t’ run,

And you ain’t done a thing

You promised to’ve done.

Back window’s cracked,

Kitchen floor squeaks,

There’s rats in the cellar,

And the attic leaks.

He said, Madam,

It’s not up to me.

I’m just the agent,

Don’t you see?

I said, Naturally,

What is **ironic** (surprising) about the ending of the poem?

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You pass the buck.

If it’s money you want

You’re out of luck.

He said, Madam,

I ain’t pleased!

I said, Neither am I.

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| How many stanzas are in this poem? |

So we agrees!