**A DREAM DEFERRED**

**Langston Hughes**

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*

**Questions:**

1. Which words in this poem most catch your attention? Why?

2. Based on this poem, do you think life in Hughes’ community is easy or hard? Why?

4. Why do you think Hughes titled this poem “A Dream Deferred”?

5. Langston Hughes, initially entitled this poem “Harlem” and later changed it to “A Dream Deferred”. Why do you think he initially called this poem Harlem? Why do you think he later changed the name to “A Dream Deferred”?