

## Wednesday's English

### A Dream Deferred (Harlem)

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?

Langston Hughes,  
The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes,  
Vintage, 1995

### Task:

Read the poem. Then answer these questions:

1. What is this poem about?
2. What sort of figurative language does Langston Hughes use in this poem?
3. What do you think is his message to the reader this time?
4. What are synonyms for deferred?