

# “Harlem” by 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?*

Printable: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SzxXi7XXQyK5r7C7xidWGM7mdc\\_cRzdP/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SzxXi7XXQyK5r7C7xidWGM7mdc_cRzdP/view?usp=sharing)

## WORD = Dream

1. Denotation - Dictionary meaning
2. Connotation - *What are any connotations with the word “Dream” \*Create a word map\**

## Activity One:

1. What does the word deferred mean? Summarize in your own words the opening question of the narrator.
2. According to the poem, how is an individual affected by having their dreams “deferred” by intervening circumstances? [What is the Tone?]
3. What is the theme of this first question?

## Activity Two: Similes

1. Read the poem to your group
2. Identify each simile in the poem (look for the word “like”)

3. What are the two things being compared?
4. Note the connotation and denotation of each word in the comparison
5. Note any imagery evoked. What meanings are conveyed?
6. What ideas are being conveyed by the comparison?

<b>One thing being compared</b>	<b>Second thing being compared</b>	<b>What is the denotation of the two words?</b>	<b>What is the connotation of the word?</b>	<b>What image pops up in your head? What emotions?</b>	<b>Overall message behind the comparison of the two words.</b>

Simile (Quote)	Two things being compared	What is the denotation of the two words?	What is the connotation of the word?	What image pops up in your head? What emotions?	Overall message behind the comparison of the two words.
Does it dry up <u>like</u> the sun?	dream = Raisin in the sun	Dried grape	Rough, wrinkly, nasty, dehydrated	Gross, raisin box,	Dying, dried up dream, you don't want it, hopeless, irreversible, impossible to accomplish
	Dream = rotten meat	Meat that's been out for days, piece of flesh that's decomposing	Dead, hopeless, old, expired, inedible, sickening	Sickening, gagging, not to be touched, forbidden, contaminated,	Forgotten, expired DREAMS
	Dreams sags = heavy load	Something that's heavy	BIG, burden, big trouble, useless, garbage, dead weight,	Stressful, forgotten,	Too big of a goal, no such thing, LONGSHOT,
	Dream = crust over like syrupy sweet	Sugar, tasty	Unhealthy, addicting, too good, too	Depression, guilty	Too good to be true, unfilling, temporary

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<b>Simile (Quote)</b>	<b>Two things being compared</b>	<b>What is the denotation of the two words?</b>	<b>What is the connotation of the word?</b>	<b>What image pops up in your head? What emotions?</b>	<b>Overall message behind the comparison of the two words.</b>
Does it dry up <u>like</u> the sun?	dream = Raisin in the sun	Dried grape	Dried, overused, wrinkles, shriveled, dark,	Nasty, gross, too sweet, forgotten, lonely, too hot,	Dreams can be nightmares, seem unreal, dreams are forgotten, hope is gone,
	Dream = rotten meat	Expired meat, gone bad,	Tastes bad, forgotten, smells bad, slimey,	Gross,	Dream is dying, the thought of the dream is decaying,
	Dream = fester sore	Painful area, wounded skin, open wound,	Swelling, painful,	Painful, aching, icky	Dreams are painful
	Dream = heavy				

	load				
	Dream = syrupy sweet				