

## Langston Hughes' "Harlem: A Dream Deferred"

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?*