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ENG360 English Lyrics Poetry

Dr. Turk

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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?

Explication:

Langston Hughes poem *A Dream Deferred* describes a dream that has been delayed for some reason. The reason is never answered but Langston uses a bunch of imagery to convey how a deferred dream feels. For example he uses a raisin in the sun in order to suggest that like the dream this fruit was once juicy but now it has been dried up and exhausted. All the imagery used in this poem is to represent dreams that were once full of life are now dead. The last line however takes on a new tone the word explodes reveals Langston's frustration because despite all the efforts of those before him, African Americans still have not seen equality.