

Harlem

By Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

5 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—
10 like a syrupy sweet

 Maybe it just sags
 like a heavy load.

15 *Or does it explode?*