**Name:**

**Vocabulary**

Defer-delay, postpone

Fester- irritate, worsen

Sags- falls, slumps

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?*

1. Explain the question that Hughes poses in the first line.

2. Identify how Hughes uses imagery in his poem. Cite the specific line.

* Sight:
* Taste:
* Touch:
* Smell-
* Sound-

3. Explain the final line. What does Hughes want his reader to consider?

4. How is this poem connected to the American Dream?

5. Is the poem’s message relevant today? Please explain.