

## *Harlem: A Dream Deferred*

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?*

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