

## *A Raisin in the Sun: Opening Poem*

**Directions:** Read the following poem and answer the questions. Responses do NOT have to be written in complete sentences.

### **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. What does deferred mean?
2. What does it mean to defer a dream?
3. Describe the qualities of a dried raisin. What does it feel like?
4. Describe the qualities of a sore festering in the sun. How does it feel?
5. Describe the qualities of the smell of rotten meat. How does it smell?
6. Describe the qualities of a crusty sugary sweet?
7. What does explode mean?
8. What is this poem saying about a dream deferred? Put it into your own words.