

HARLEM

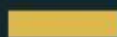
BY LANGSTON HUGHES

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?

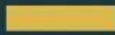
MAYBE IT JUST SAGS
LIKE A HEAVY LOAD.

OR DOES IT EXPLODE?



READ THE POEM

WATCH AND LISTEN



COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE PRESENT SIMPLE FORM OF THE VERBS IN PARENTHESES

In "Harlem," Langston Hughes _____ (ask) one of American poetry's most famous questions: what _____ (happen) to a dream deferred? This question _____ (echo) throughout American culture, from Broadway to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches. It would not be an exaggeration to say that every time the "American dream" (be) invoked, Hughes's question _____ (be) there, asking what that dream _____ (be), what conditions _____ (make) it possible, and why for so many it _____ (seem) little more than a trap, or an illusion, or a promise that no longer meaningfully _____ (obtain). Today, Americans can hear the question in the political language of the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the DREAM Act. More basically, it _____ (resound) in the stories of people who, by accident of birth or fate, _____ (find) themselves thrust onto a precarious margin. For many who _____ (struggle) daily toward a more livable life, the question _____ (persist).

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