

# ***HARLEM***

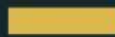
BY LANGSTON HUGHES

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?

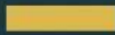
MAYBE IT JUST SAGS  
LIKE A HEAVY LOAD.

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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