

PV Log: (circle one) **Poem** / **Movie** / **Picture** / **Lyric**Date 1/18/14Title "Harlem"Author / Director / Langston Hughes

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Found on shmoop.com while looking for poems

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc?)

This poem is about what happens when dreams are put off and when people stop following their dreams temporarily. The poem questions what happens to dreams that are ignored. Maybe they turn out like a dried up raisin in the sun, or maybe they stink like rotten meat. This poem's final question asks if the dreams explode.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

The them of this poem is holding on to your dreams and never letting go. If you do let go, your dreams could turn into bad things like dried up raisins. This poem suggests that deferred dreams sag like a heavy load, which they are. Unused potential is a load and it can't just be gotten rid of.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This poem has two main parts. The first part asks what happens and gives ideas of what might happen to deferred dreams. The second part is a continuation of the first part, but it is isolated because it has the best suggestion yet. Maybe deferred dreams act like a heavy load one must carry.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

I like this poem because it tells people to hold onto their dreams. People give up on dreams way to easily in this world, even though dreams are the only things that keep this world running in the first place. Dreams drive people to greatness. They change the way we aspire to do things. They help us achieve more than we ever could without them. Poems about dreams are poetic because dreams have so much meaning.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)

Harlem

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?