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Welcome to the land of symbols, imagery, and wordplay. Before you travel any further, please know that there may be some thorny academic terminology ahead. Never fear, Shmoop is here. Check out our...Free, free! Six questions, and questions makes us think of uncertainty and the que...Our speaker is like a really cool professor who is super smart and who asks the best questions. We imagine him standing in front of a classroom, letting the chatter and nervous energy die down. He...While this poem's setting is ambiguous, it contains very specific images that ignite our imaginations. We can imagine our speaker is a professor in a college classroom (see the "Speaker Point of Vi...There's a tinge of Jeopardy to this poem (thanks to all of the dream talk, the straight talk, and the soul-searching). When we...Hold onto your hats. This poem actually has two titles. Hughes first titled it "Harlem," but later called it "Dream Deferred." Some people even refer to it by its first line, "what happens to a dre...As the poet laureate of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes was passionate about exploring the soul and condition of the black community in America. He sought to capture the everyday experience...The questions of this poem lead us to some weighty issues lurking at its heart, but we're willing to bet you have experience with the idea of deferred dreams, and that you've felt the range of emot...Dreams come in all shapes and sizes, however, we just don't see much action going down in this poem. Sorry, folks."a raisin in the sun" (3) Lorraine Hansberry took this line as the title of her play (A Raisin in the Sun), which is one of the most famous and beloved of American plays as it treats an ele... Harlem by Langston Hughes first appeared in 1951 as part of his poetry collection Montage of a Dream Deferred. The poem, often remembered by its opening question, What happens to a dream deferred? delves into the frustration and disillusionment faced by African Americans during a period of intense racial and economic inequality in the United States. It explores themes of deferred dreams, the emotional and social toll of systemic oppression, and the potential for explosive outcomes when hope is continually denied. Known for its vivid imagery and resonant questions, Harlem has achieved lasting popularity as a staple in literature and history textbooks, offering students an accessible entry point into discussions of the Civil Rights Movement, social justice, and the enduring power of poetic expression. What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry uplike a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a soreAnd then run? Does it explode? LineAnnotation What happens to a dream deferred? The central question of the poem, asking about the consequences of unfulfilled dreams. Deferred implies postponement or denial, particularly in the context of racial and social injustice experienced by African Americans. This sets the tone for an exploration of suppressed aspirations. Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun? Suggests that a deferred dream might wither and lose vitality over time, similar to how a grape loses its moisture and becomes a raisin. The metaphor reflects the decay of hope when exposed to prolonged neglect or hardship. Or fester like a sore / And then run? The dream is likened to an untreated wound that becomes infected and eventually bursts. This imagery evokes pain, suffering, and unresolved tension, emphasizing the damaging effects of neglecting aspirations. Does it stink like rotten meat? Compares the deferred dream to decay unaddressed. Or crust and sugar over / like a syrupy sweet?Implies that the deferred dream might harden and become superficially pleasing, but ultimately remain unfulfilling. This metaphor suggests an artificial or unsatisfactory resolution that hides deeper disappointment. Maybe it just sags / like a heavy load. Reflects the burden of carrying unfulfilled dreams, portraying them as a source of emotional and psychological weight. The imagery suggests fatigue and the toll on those unable to achieve their aspirations. Or does it explode? The concluding line proposes a more violent and abrupt outcome, hinting at the potential for rebellion or social upheaval when dreams are continually denied. The explosive imagery underscores the urgency and danger of deferred justice or opportunity. Device Example Explanation Alliteration for multiple interpretations to the imagery of drying. Ambiguity What happens to a dream deferred? The question is open-ended, leaving room for multiple interpretations about the consequences of delaying aspirations. Anaphora Does it? (repeated in several lines) The repetition of the phrase Does it emphasizes the speculative nature of the poem, inviting the reader to consider various outcomes of deferred dreams. Connotation Deferred, dry up, explode These words carry strong emotional associations, conveying loss, decay, and potential violence tied to unrealized dreams. Ellipsis And then run? The use of ellipsis suggests a continuation or unresolved action, reflecting the incomplete or deteriorating nature of the dream. End RhymeSun and runThe rhyming of the last words in lines adds musicality and emphasizes the connections between the images. Imagery Like rotten meat, like a heavy loadVivid descriptions appeal to the senses, making the consequences of deferred dreams more tangible and impactful. MetaphorDoes it dry up like a raisin in the sun? The dream is compared to a raisin to symbolize how it might shrink and lose vitality when neglected. MoodOr does it explode? The mood shifts to one of tension and potential violence, creating an atmosphere of urgency and unease. Personification Does it stink like rotten meat? The deferred dream is given human-like qualities (it can stink), making the consequences of its neglect more vivid and relatable. Repetition Or (repeated throughout) The repetition of or creates a list-like rhythm and emphasizes the many possible outcomes of a deferred dream. Rhetorical Question What happens to a dream deferred? The poem is structured around rhetorical questions that provoke thought rather than seeking direct answers. SimileLike a syrupy sweetThe dream is compared to a sweet treat that crusts over, symbolizing superficial satisfaction that masks deeper disappointment. SymbolismA dream deferred The deferred dream symbolizes unfulfilled aspirations, particularly those of African Americans during the era of racial segregation and inequality. Tone Speculative and foreboding the tone reflects both curiosity and a sense of warning about the dire consequences of leaving dreams unfulfilled. 1. Deferred Dreams and FrustrationOne of the central themes in Harlem is the concept of deferred dreamsthose that are postponed or left unfulfilled. Hughes opens the poem with the rhetorical question, What happens to a dream deferred? This sets the tone for an exploration of the emotional and social consequences of delaying aspirations, especially for marginalized communities. The poem suggests various outcomes: dreams may dry up like a raisin in the sun, symbolizing decay and the loss of vitality, or they might fester like a sore, indicating the pain and damage caused by prolonged neglect. The repeated question about what happens to dreams highlights a sense of frustration and urgency, portraying unfulfilled hopes as sources of personal and collective anguish.2. Social Injustice and OppressionHughes uses the deferred dream as a metaphor for the systemic racial and economic inequalities faced by African Americans. The imagery in the poemsuch as rotten meat and a heavy loadevokes the emotional and physical toll of enduring discrimination and limited opportunities. The poems speculative tone suggests that the prolonged denial of dreams has far-reaching social implications, not only for individuals but also for the larger community. The concluding line, Or does it explode? implies that suppressed dreams and injustices could lead to social upheaval or rebellion, reflecting the simmering tensions of the Civil Rights era when the poem was published.3. The Fragility of Hope in the face of persistent obstacles. The line Maybe it just sags like a heavy load conveys the emotional weight of carrying unfulfilled aspirations, suggesting that deferred dreams can erode optimism and leave individuals feeling burdened. The poem portrays hope as something that can deteriorate over time, becoming either a source of bitterness or a hollow remnant of its former promise. The use of metaphors such as crust and sugar overlike a syrupy sweet implies that even attempts to mask disappointment can be unsatisfying and ultimately fleeting.4. Potential for RebellionThe final line, Or does it explode? introduces a theme of latent power and potential rebellion. Hughes hints that deferred dreams, if suppressed for too long, might culminate in an explosive release, symbolizing anger, protest, or even violence. This line reflects the broader historical context of the African American struggle for equality, suggesting that systemic oppression is unsustainable and may provoke drastic action. The explosive metaphor underscores the urgency of addressing inequality and ensuring that dreams are not indefinitely postponed. Literary Theory Examines the socio-economic conditions that contribute to the deferral of dreams, particularly for marginalized groups. Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun? reflects how economic disparities lead to stagnation and decay of aspirations. Psychoanalytic Theory Analyzes the emotional and psychological effects of unfulfilled desires and suppressed dreams. Or fester like a sore / And then run? uses imagery of wounds to symbolize the internal damage caused by repression and unfulfilled desires. Critical Race Theory Explores the racial dynamics and systemic oppression faced by African Americans, which contribute to deferred dreams. Or does it explode? implies the potential for rebellion against systemic racism and the historical denial of opportunities. Postmodern Theory Questions the nature of meaning and suggests multiple interpretations of deferred dreams. The rhetorical question What happens to a dream deferred? invites open-ended speculation, highlighting the subjectivity of outcomes. 1. What does the poem suggest about the long-term effects of unfulfilled dreams? The poem vividly portrays the long-term consequences of deferred dreams through a series of metaphors that illustrate decay, pain, and unresolved tension. For example, Does it dry up / like a raisin when exposed to harsh conditions. Similarly, Or fester like a sore / And then run? compares deferred dreams to an infected wound, emphasizing the emotional and psychological harm caused by neglecting aspirations. The culmination of these images is the final line, Or does it explode? which implies that deferred dreams, if left unaddressed, can lead to destructive consequences, such as rebellion or social upheaval. Through these metaphors, Hughes suggests that the denial of dreams is not a neutral act but one with profound and often irreversible consequences for individuals and communities. 2. How does Hughes use imagery to convey the poems central message? Imagery is central to Hughes message in Harlem, as it brings the abstract concept of deferred dreams to life through vivid sensory details. The metaphor Does it stink like rotten meat? engages the readers sense of smell to evoke the repulsiveness and degradation of neglected aspirations. Similarly, Or crust and sugar over / like a syrupy sweet? appeals to the sense of taste, illustrating a superficial resolution that hides deeper dissatisfaction. By juxtaposing these contrasting images, Hughes conveys the multifaceted nature of deferred dreamsthey can decay, burden, or even momentarily appear appealing, but ultimately remain unresolved. The recurring sensory imagery draws the reader into the emotional and physical experience of disappointment, making the consequences of unfulfilled dreams both tangible and impactful.3. What role does the final line, Or does it explode? play in the poem? The final line, Or does it explode? serves as the climactic conclusion to Hughes exploration of deferred dreams, introducing a sense of urgency and potential danger. Unlike the earlier metaphors, which suggest decay, burden, or superficial sweetness, this line points to a sudden and violent outcome. It hints at the explosive consequences of prolonged frustration, anger, and oppression, particularly in the context of systemic racism and social inequality. The abruptness of this line, standing alone after the slower rhythm of the preceding metaphors, emphasizes its dramatic impact. It serves as a warning that the suppression of aspirations, especially within marginalized communities, can lead to rebellion or upheaval. This line encapsulates the poems central tension and leaves the reader contemplating the high stakes of deferred justice and opportunity.4. How does the structure of the poems contribute to its meaning? The structure of Harlem mirrors the gradual buildup of tension surrounding deferred dreams. Beginning with a single rhetorical question. The structure shifts from descriptive imagery (dry up like a raisin in the sun) to more intense and dynamic metaphors (fester like a sore, stink like rotten meat). The poems increasing intensity mirrors the escalating consequences of deferred dreams, culminating in the abrupt and forceful final line, Or does it explode? This progression creates a sense of inevitability and builds momentum, reflecting the growing pressure of suppressed aspirations. The open-ended structure, with no resolution, reinforces the ongoing nature of the struggle for equality and the lingering question of what happens when dreams are perpetually deferred. If We Must Die by Claude McKaySimilarity: Like Harlem, this poem explores themes of resistance and the consequences of oppression, using vivid and urgent imagery to emphasize dignity and the fight against injustice. The Weary Blues by Langston HughesSimilarity: This poem also captures the struggles and dreams of African Americans, blending lyrical rhythm with themes of deferred aspirations and resilience, much like Harlem. I, Too by Langston HughesSimilarity: Both poems address racial inequality and the hope for a better future, with I, Too emphasizing the eventual triumph of marginalized voices over systemic oppression. Sympathy by Paul Laurence DunbarSimilarity: Dunbars metaphor of a caged bird parallels Hughes theme of constrained dreams, exploring the emotional toll of unfulfilled aspirations and systemic barriers. Dreams by Langston Hughes find it without aspirations, aligning with the central theme of Harlem. Quotation Context Theoretical Perspective What happens to a dream deferred? Opening question that frames the poems exploration of the consequences of unfulfilled aspirations. Critical Race Theory: Highlights systemic racial barriers that prevent marginalized communities from achieving their dreams. Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun? Suggests how neglect causes dreams to wither and lose their vitality over time. Psychoanalytic Theory: Examines the internal psychological toll of deferred aspirations. Or fester like a sore / And then run? Implies that deferred dreams may become infected, symbolizing emotional pain or unresolved societal issues. Marxist Theory: Represents the festering social inequalities caused by economic and systemic oppression. Does it stink like rotten meat? Uses sensory imagery to evoke the repulsiveness of decay, symbolizing the negative impact of unfulfilled dreams on society. Postmodern Theory: Highlights the subjective and unsettling nature of deferred dreams, masking deeper dissatisfaction. Structuralism Explores the duality of appearances versus realities in the human experience of aspiration. Maybe it just sags / like a heavy load. Depicts the emotional burden of carrying unfulfilled aspirations over time. Psychoanalytic Theory: Focuses on the subconscious weight and emotional burden of carrying unfulfilled aspirations over time. Psychoanalytic Theory: Focuses on the subconscious weight and emotional burden of carrying unfulfilled aspirations. violent consequences of prolonged oppression and frustration. Critical Race Theory: Highlights the potential for rebellion and upheaval against systemic inequality. Deferred dreams Central metaphor for unfulfilled aspirations, particularly in the context of African American struggles. Marxist Theory: Symbolizes the inequities faced by the working class and marginalized groups.Dry up, fester, stink, sagsVerbs evoke decay and stagnation, creating a progression of worsening outcomes for neglected aspirations. Psychoanalytic and Marxist Theories: Examine both personal and societal deterioration resulting from deferred goals. What happens to a dream deferred? (repetition) Repetition reinforces the central question, emphasizing the universality and unresolved nature of the issue. Postmodern Theory: Highlights ambiguity and the multiplicity of possible outcomes for unfulfilled dreams. Davis, Arthur P. The Harlem of Langston Hughes Poetry. Phylon (1940-1956), vol. 13, no. 4, 1952, pp. 27683. JSTOR, . Accessed 25 Dec. 2024. Wipplinger, Jonathan O. Singing the Harlem Renaissance: Langston Hughes, Translation, and Diasporic Blues. The Jazz Republic: Music, Race, and American Culture in Weimar Germany, University of Michigan Press, 2017, pp. 16596. JSTOR, . 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Accessed 25 Dec. 2024.PRESLEY, JAMES. The American Dream of Langston Hughes. Southwest Review, vol. 48, no. 4, 1963, pp. 38086. JSTOR, . Accessed 25 Dec. 2024.PRESLEY, JAMES. The American Dream of Langston Hughes. Southwest Review, vol. 48, no. 4, 1963, pp. 38086. JSTOR, . Accessed 25 Dec. 2024.PRESLEY, JAMES. The American Dream of Langston Hughes. Southwest Review, vol. 48, no. 4, 1963, pp. 38086. JSTOR, . Accessed 25 Dec. 2024.PRESLEY, JAMES. The American Dream of Langston Hughes. Southwest Properties and Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage. Discover The Collection Curated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors Favorites How can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explainhow. Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage. Discover The Collection Curated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors Picks. Browse Editors Favorites How can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explainhow. Learn More The Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage. Discover The Collection Curated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors Picks. Browse Editors Favorites Science, Tech, Math Humanities All Humanities A Langston Hughes. The poem was written as a part of the book-length sequence, Montage of a Dream Deferred deals with the consciousness and lives of black people in Harlem. It also explores the continuous racial injustices in the Harlem community. The poem Harlem shows the harm that is caused when ones dream of blacks. Langston Hughes is one of the most imminent and well-known poets of the Harlem Renaissance. Even though Langston Hughes was not from the lower class of African Americans, his poetry mostly deals with the problems that have plagued the lives of poor people to express their anguish and pain. Besides poetry, Hughes has also written plays and prose works. The works of Langston Hughes have been criticized by some African Americans are deprived of becoming a part of the great American Dream. Literary ContextHarlem Renaissance in literature, music, and art started in the 1910s and 1920s. The writers of the Harlem renaissance are mainly from the community in Harlem. They deal with the problems and everyday life experiences of black people in Harlem. They deal with the problems and everyday life experiences of black people in Harlem. They deal with the problems and everyday life experiences of black people in Harlem. sought to explore the black experiences and put them in the center. They attempt to formulate a distinctly black aesthetic instead of following the norms and models of white. Hughes explores the challenges faced by the black artist where the white society exoticized and fetishized them on the one hand and silenced and dismissed on the other hand. Hughes asserted that black writers and artists much embrace their own culture for true beauty and creativity. Hughes asserted that black writers and artists much embrace their own culture for true beauty and creativity. Hughes asserted that black writers and artists much embrace their own culture for true beauty and creativity. Hughes asserted that black writers and artists much embrace their own culture for true beauty and creativity. glad. If they are not, their displeasure doesnt matter either. We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves. Even though at the onset of the Great Depression, in the late 1920s, the Harlem Renaissance ended, it laid the foundations for the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Art Movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Hughes wrote Harlem in 1951 with the values he laid in his essay that he wrote 30 years ago. Even though the poem was written as a part of a long poem, the poem has inspired many well-known writers that come after Langston Hughes. The poem is the source of the title of the play A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, written in 1959. The novel accounts for the experiences of black families living in the South Side of Chicago and their attempts to overcome poverty and segregation. The opening line of the poem Harlem exerts its relevance as it deals with ongoing issues such as police brutality and racism in the United States. Historical context of the poem is very important to understand the poem. The history of Harlem is involved in the historical context. More than six million African Americans black Americans faced unfair rents and severe unemployment. Harlem was among such neighborhoods that turned out to a ghetto that entrapped people within the cycles of poverty. Such circumstances caused the Harlem riots in 1935 and 1943. Both of these riots were incurred by the little instances of violence against African Americans. For instance, the riot of 1943 started when a black soldier was shot and wounded by white police. When the poem Harlem was written in 1951, World War II has ended, and the black soldiers fought in the pain of millions of African Americans whose dreams never become a reality, and with time, they have lost their meaning and relevance just like a raisin in the sun? or decay like a sore and then run? The speaker also proposes that it could stink like rotten meat. The speaker says that the dream that cannot be realized or that ever becomes painful. The speaker proposes two possibilities that unrealized dreams can turn into. It either becomes painful as a sore that never dries and keeps on running, or it leaves behind the crust and sugar over like a syrupy sweet? They either rot and leave behind the stink in the memories or are remembered as a sweet pain. Maybe it just sagsLike a heavy load. Or does it explode? In these lines, the speaker expresses other possibilities of the dream deferred. The speaker says that the burden of unrealized and unfulfilled may remain in the hearts of the people who have lost them He asks what happens when the burden of unfulfilled dreams gets unbearable. He ends the poem by asking, that does it explode? The poem Harlem is written in 1951, almost ten years before the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Langston Hughes also wrote about the consequences of the Harlem riots in 1935 and 1943. Both of the riots were ignited by the pervasive unemployment, segregation, and the brutality of the poem, Langston Hughes deals with this time period of African American history. The very title of the poem, Langston Hughes could mean any dream suggests that though the dreams have been deferred or postponed by injustices, they do not simply disappear. Sooner or later, these dreams will be accounted for. The poem certainly suggests that there will be societal reckoning soon as the dreamers are claiming for what is rightfully theirs. Initially, the speaker says that the idea of deferring the dream may cause the dream to become lessened, making it too unreachable that it eventually fades away. The poet suggests that the unfulfilled or deferred dream may dry up or fester like a sore. There is a possibility that it may stink like rotten meat or crust and sugar over/like a syrupy sweet. These images of deferred suggest that something is have dreams that cannot be attained only because of racial discrimination and injustices. All of these images illustrate the cost that black people faced in order to bear the injustices like the infected and painful sore. Later in the novel, the speaker also wonders that these dreams just sags / like a heavy load. This suggests that the dream of racial equality always appears to be a burden on communities like Harlem, which continuously drags them down instead of uplifting them. However, the speaker also suggests a completely different outcome by asking that Or does it explosion. Moreover, the can be read and interpreted in two ways. First of all, the deferred dream can be taken as a collective dream can be taken as an individual dream. The poem proposes that in the black community, the individual and the collective dreams are connected with each other. Therefore, it is not possible to realize the individual dream without the realization of the collective dream of equality. The obvious can be taken as an account of the deferral of a collective dream. The very title of the poem Harlem frames the poem as being something about a whole community and its experiences. The deferred dream is the dream of the Harlem neighborhood and the group of people living there. Throughout the poem, the dream is referred to as it, suggesting that the speaker is talking about the same dream in the whole poem, and there is only one dream that is continuously postponed. It is due to the title of the poem that the readers come to know that the dream described is the dream of the whole Harlem community. However, the poem, at the same time, can be taken as the deferral dream is compared to a raisin in the sun, which is so small that only a person can notice it. Likewise, sore is something that only an individual can endure. These comparisons in the poem, the dreams depends on personal experiences. The two readings of the poem are supported by the historical context in which the poem is written. The poem Harlem was written during the era of Jim Crow segregation in 1951. This time period is also known as the early period of the Civil Rights Movement. Moreover, the poem was written after World War II, when black Americans were forced to fight in the United States military within segregated ranks. In these circumstances, the collective dream of racial equality and the deferral of this dream were forcefully present in the black American community. Moreover, systematic racism in America also makes it impossible for the realization of individual dreams. For instance, a black family may want to buy their own house; it is impossible because of the racist policies of discriminatory lending practices. Within this context, it is impossible for an individual to realize his dream without the realization of a larger collective dream of Civil rights and equality. Langston Hughess poem Harlem mirrors the post-World War II mood of millions of African Americans. When the poem was written, a period of the Great Depression was over; likewise, the great World War II was also over. However, the dream of African Americans was still deferred or postponed. Langston Hughes takes the dream very seriously, no matter if it is as ordinary as hitting the nail or as noble as being pessimistic about propelling the rearing of children. Speaking broadly, the dream in the poem Harlem refers to the dream of African Americans for the right of liberty, right of life, and right of pursuit of happiness. The dream refers to the dream of equality, liberty, and fraternity, for the right to own property, respect, dignity, and ethnic identity. In the poem, Langston Hughes tries to illuminate and explain the condition in America. The poem questions the aftermath of many deferred dreams. The happiness.The speaker is posing the question that since the dream has been postponed for a long time, what has happened to it? For instance, the period of the Great Depression is over, and the great World War II has also come to an end. What about the deferred dream that needs to be realized for centuries. The second stanza of the poem illustrates are to see to an end. What about the deferred dream that needs to be realized for centuries. The second stanza of the poem illustrates are to see to a series of questions in an attempt to answer the question What happened to a deferred dream? the speaker answers the question by imposing another question by imposing another question as Does it dry up/ like a raisin in the sun? The image of a may also imply that the dream has shrunk or become minimal. Instead of looking at the objective qualities of the images, it is necessary that they must be analyzed in terms of the feeling of the speaker. The simile of dream drying like a raisin in the sun shows that at first, it was like a fresh grape, which is green and fresh. However, when it is neglected for a long time, it probably dries. The next simile in the stanza is sore. For instance, the speaker says that Or does it [deferred dream] fester like a sore and then run? This imagery shows a sense of pain and infection. By comparing the dream to a sore on the body of the dreamer, the speaker proposes that unrealized and unfulfilled dreams turn onto the part of our body. It acts like an enduring injury that may cause infection and even death. The speaker tries to point out the pains when one dream is always deferred. The next question intensifies the disgust. The speaker suggests that a dream deferred for a long time may also stink just like the smell of rotten meat. By imposing this question in the poem, Langston Hughes points out the disastrous effects of avoiding and ignoring ones dreams. The fourth alternative that the speaker suggests is that the deferred dream will crust and sugar over. This means that it will make a covering layer over the wound to make it appear healed. The image of crust and sugar suggests that it becomes a sweet pain that will not kill the dreamer like sores and meat. However, it still connotes neglect, decay, and waste. The third stanza of the poem opens with the only sentences that are not questions. In these lines, Langston Hughes suggests that the deferred dream may just sag, meaning it may bend with overload. The image of sag suggests that even avoiding dreams may lead to unforeseen horrors; however, the one certain outcome is that it will weigh one down both emotionally and physically. The speaker is the representative of the African American people and black community. The poem Harlem has a rhetorical structure. The speaker of the poem is black American. After the Civil War, black people were fulfill their promises. Black people were fulfill their promises. Black people were promised equality and equity. achieved. These dreams were deferred, delayed, and postponed. The poem Harlem by Langston Hughes has no set form as it is a free verse poem. The poem consists of 11 lines in four stanzas. Each stanza of the poem waries in length that adds a sense of impulsiveness to the poem. The poem has created its own form, which suggests that those whose dreams are deferred must find their own answers to what will happen to them now even if their answers explode the rules of the poem. The first and last stanza of the poem consists of only one sentence that mirrors each other. The formal elements of the poem allude to jazz and blues. Jazz and blues are the musical form of the black community and use recurring patterns and juxtaposition. The poem Harlem creates a similar form and deals with the dissonant experience of an oppressed, deferred, and unfulfilled dream. The poem Harlem has no meter and is a free verse poem. However, the poem has metrical elements of rhythm throughout. The poem has metrical elements of rhythm throughout. The poem has metrical elements of rhythm throughout. The poem has metrical elements and also uses the elements of rhythm throughout. The poem has metrical elements of rhyth the poem Harlem gives awareness about what the actually is about? The title of the poem proposes that the speaker may be someone who lives in the duestion What happens to a dream deferred? shows a kind of remoteness. The question would sound differently if the speaker says my dreams or our dream. The speaker of the poem appears to be highly specific, and at the same time, open-ended. The title of the poem makes the poem set in one particular location, and that is Harlem. Harlem is the historically black neighborhood of black Americans in New York City. The political and social setting of the place was not stable at the time when the poem is written. The poem is written in 1951 during segregation. It is the period pre-Civil Rights Movement and the pre-Vote Rights act. This context changes the setting of the poem to be very specific. The poem, at the same time, can be taken in an open-ended way. In the poem with the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of sore also suggests of the poem with the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of sore also suggests of the poem with the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of sore also suggests of the poem with the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly, the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. Similarly and the image of a raisin that has been dried up. abandonment and decay. Likewise, the image of syrupy sweet and rotten meat shows a lack of care and neglect. The images can be taken as a kind of conveying the intolerable and frustrating feeling of living in the ongoing condition of poverty and injustice where a neighborhood is left uncared for and neglected. Such feelings can be shared by many people in different neighborhoods that are similar to Harlem. Thus, the setting of the poem suggests that Harlem is not a single place but a set of experiences that are shared by many people. In order to bring richness and clarity to the texts, poets use literary devices. With the use of literary devices, texts become more appealing and meaningful. In the poem Harlem, Langston Hughes employed various literary devices to emphasize the intended impact of the poem. Following are the literary devices used in the poem. For example in the poem, the imagery employed islike a raisin in the sun. Does it stink like rotten meat. Or does it explode. When two different objects are compared to one another to understand the meaning, the use of the word like, as, etc. is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile. For example, in the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile as a simile and the poem, imagery is employed as: Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?, Does it stink like rotten meat. It is called a simile as a compared with the food items that are decaying. It is a question that contains the answer and is employed to make the concept clear. For example, in the poem following are the rhetorical questions: Or does it explode? Does it stink like rotten meat? Enjambment is a literary device employed when ideas or thought flows from one verse to another. The use of enjambment also creates a sense of tension, for instance, Maybe it just sagslike a heavy load. When an implicit comparison is drawn between two objects or persons, it is called a metaphor. For example, in the poem Harlem, when the speaker says that Or does it explode? he compares the deferred dreams with bombs. The recurrence of vowel sounds in a row is known as assonance. For example, in this poem, the /e/ sound repeats in verse Do it stink like rotten meat. Similarly, the sound /o/ repeats in verse Do it stink like rotten meat. Similarly, the sound /o/ repeats in verse Do it stink like rotten meat. sun. Poetic and literary devices are the same, but a few are used only in poetry. Here is the analysis of some of the poetic devices are the same things, some of the poetic devices are the same things, some of the mare only used in this poem. The poetic form in which the poem is written is a stanza. The poem Harlem by Langston Hughes has no set form as it is a free verse poem. The poem consists of 11 lines in four stanzas. Each stanza of the poem waries in length that adds a sense of impulsiveness to the poem waries in length that adds a sense of impulsiveness to the poem. own answers to what will happen to them now even if their answers explode the rules of the racially dominated white society. In order to create a melodious stanza, poets use end rhyme. For example, in Harlem, the end rhymes are sun/run and meat/sweet. The poem Harlem has no particular rhyming scheme. However, the first four lines of the poem follow ABCB rhyming scheme. In 1926, Hughes's professional life took off. Knopf published his first book, a poetry collection entitled The Weary Blues. Along with a few other writers, including Zora Neale Hurston and Wallace Thurman, Hughes launched a literary magazine entitled Fire!! A Quarterly Devoted to the Younger Negro. Among the many literary journals circulating Harlem at the time, Fire!! was an important (albeit short-lived) outlet for emerging black writers' work. He also published a groundbreaking essay called "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain." The essay outlined his philosophy on art and what he saw as the quintessential problem facing black artists: "One of the most promising of the young Negro poets said to me once, "I want to be a poetnot a Negro poet," meaning behind that, "I would like to be white." And I was sorry the young man said that, for no great poet has ever been afraid of being himself."10 The following year saw the publication of his second poetry collection, Fine Clothes to the Jew. By this time, some black critics were upset by Hughes's work. They felt that, by writing poems about the common man, Hughes essentially responded that he couldn't care less. He had already given his critics their answer. As he wrote in "The Negro Artist:"We younger Negro artists who create now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame. If white people are pleased we are glad. If they are not, it doesn't matter. We know we are beautiful. And ugly too [] If colored people are pleased we are glad. If they are not, their displeasure doesn't matter either. We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves.11 Hughes loved the street and all its characters, and celebrated them in his work. "The low-down folks, the so-called common element, and they are the majoritymay the Lord be praised!" he wrote. "The people who have their hip of gin on Saturday nights and are not too important to themselves or the community, or too well fed, or too learned to watch the lazy world go round. [] Their joy runs, bang! into ecstasy. Their religion soars to a shout."12 Before it was a catchphrase, Hughes knew that black was beautiful. In "Harlem Sweeties" he celebrated the tones of black skin: "Molasses taffy/ Coffee and cream/ Licorice, clove, cinnamon/ To a honey-brown dream."13 After centuries of poets who described darkness as insidious and foreboding, Hughes recast it as beautiful in "Dream Variations": "Then rest at cool evening/ Beneath a tall tree/ While night comes on gently,/ Dark like me/ That is my dream!"14 His goal was to shed the internalized racism and loathing that he felt too many African-Americans possessed. "To my mind, it is the duty of the younger Negro artist, if he accepts any duties at all from outsiders, to change through the force of his art that old whispering 'I want to be white,' hidden in the aspirations of his people, to 'Why should I want to be white? I am a Negroand beautiful,'" he wrote.15 In 1929, Hughes received his bachelor's degree from historically-black Lincoln University. The following year, his semi-autobiographical novel Not Without Laughter was published. It followed a young black man named Sandy Rodgers through his itinerant childhood in the Midwest. The book was a critical success, and Hughes received the Harmon Gold Medal for Literature. What happens to a dream deferred? like a raisin in the sun? Does it stink like rotten meat? Copyright Credit: Langston Hughes, "Harlem" from The Collected Works of Langston Hughes. Copyright 2002 by Langston Hughes. Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc. Source: The Collected Works of Langston Hughes (University of Missouri Press (BkMk Press), 2002) April 25, 2017 Poems, articles, and podcasts that explore African American history and culture. Understanding a poet of the people, for the people. This short poem about dreams is one of the Montage Trump Birthday: June 14, 1946 Donald Trump Birthday: June 14, 1946 Donald Trump Wasarguably the most controversial president in the American history. He has been characterised as racist and his actions and policies divided America like never before. He lost his bid for re-election to Joe Biden in a bitterly fought election. Kendrick Lamar Birthday: June 17, 1987 Kendrick Lamar Birthday: June 17, 1987 Kendrick Lamar Birthday: June 17, 1987 Kendrick Lamar Birthday: June 18, 1987 Kendrick Lamar Birthday: June 18 music industry. In 2016, he was named in Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world list. Bob Dylan Birthday: May 24, 1941 Bob Dylan Singer-songwriter and author, Bob Dylan Singer-songwriter and Bob Dylan Singer-song introduced a range of political, social, and literary influences to pop music. He is a Nobel laureate and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rory McIlroy Northern Irish golfer Rory McIlroy Competes as part of both the European and PGA Tours. He won four major titles by 25, becoming one of three people to achieve the feat. Rory was named the RT Sports Person of the Year twice and has won the World Cup, too. John F. Kennedy Leaders John F. Kenn support to the growing civil rights movement. Before becoming one of the youngest Presidents of the country, he served in the navy, U.S. House of Representatives and the US Senate. John F. Kennedy Biography Bob Hope Bob Hope Bob Hope began his career with vaudeville and Broadway, before plunging into radio and films. He is remembered for his comedy timing and trademark self-deprecating humor. He hosted the Academy Awards 19 times and authored 14 books, apart from performing for the U.S. military in 57 USO tours. Carmelo Anthony was first drafted by Denver Nuggets and played eight seasons with them. Amongst the most prolific scorers in the NBA history, he played another seven season with New York Knicks. At the Olympics, Anthony was part of the teams that won a bronze medal in 2004 and a goldmedal in 2008, 2012, and 2016. Carmelo Anthony Biography Annette Bening Film & the miniseries Mrs. Harris. Dennis Hopper Film & Theater Personalities Dennis Hopper was an American actor, photographer, and filmmaker. His directorial film debut Easy Rider glorified the counterculture of the 1960s and became the cinematic symbol of counterculture, inspiring several youngsters. Also a photographer, Hoppers and Filmmaker. His directorial film debut Easy Rider glorified the counterculture of the 1960s and became the cinematic symbol of counterculture photographs of the 1963 March on Washington were published. Hopper is also credited with influencing actress Amber Tamblyn whose father was one of his friends. Jeff Buckley Singers Jeff Buckley Singers Jeff Buckley Was an American guitarist and singer-songwriter. His only studio album, Grace, was included in Rolling Stone magazine's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time list. Since his untimely death at the age of 30, Jeff Buckley has been the subject of several documentaries. His death also inspired several artists to record songs in tribute to his life and career. Harvey Korman Film & Theater Personalities Harvey Korman Harvey Korman gained recognition with his acts on The Danny Kaye Show He then soared to fame with the sketch comedy series The Carol Burnett Show, partnering with Tim Conway and winning four Emmys. He has also been part of The Flintstones franchise and several Mel Brooks comedies. John Barrymore Film & Theater Personalities John Barrymore Film & Theater Personalities John Barrymore, father of actor Drew Barrymore, began his career as a stage actor, appearing in plays such as Hamlet. He was nicknamed the Great Profile and Starred in films such as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Sherlock Holmes. He struggled with alcoholism throughout his life. The Harlem Renaissance transformed writing for African-American authors in America during the 1920s. Langston Hughes was at the heart of the awakening, with his strong voice and concrete images. His writing championed the black man and dealt with the cultural and social issues of his time. According to Arnold Rampersand, editor of "The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes," "He could sometimes be bitter, but his art is generally suffused by a keen sense of the ideal and by a profound love of humanity, especially black Americans." Hughes shows his understanding of humanity and respect for the black culture in his poem "Mother to Son." A metaphor is a literary device that compares one element to something else. Metaphors connect things that readers already know to a new element or way of seeing the world. An extended metaphor takes a comparison and carries it throughout an entire passage, like Hughes does with the staircase once, the whole poem is based around the staircase and how it compares to life. Hughes describes what the staircase, or life, is by first explaining what it isn't. What the Staircase Is NotHughes creates the metaphor in the beginning of the poem, when he writes, "Life for me aint been no crystal stair." The strong imagery, the picture created in the reader's head of a crystal stair. "The strong imagery, the picture created in the reader's head of a crystal stair." The strong imagery, the picture created in the reader's head of a crystal stair. "The strong imagery, the picture created in the reader's head of a crystal stair." The strong imagery, the picture created in the reader's head of a crystal stair. and money. By saying his life is not a crystal stair, Hughes is honest about his socioeconomic class and that of other black men. After clarifying that life was not glamorous, Hughes describes what his life was like by saying "Its had tacks in it,/ And splinters,/ And boards torn up." The working-man description of the staircase he has faced is mirrored by the staircase itself and the act of climbing. Also, later in the poem he describes it as "bare." This means that life has had hardships and difficult spots along the way. Critic Aidan Wasley says, "The speaker equates the history of African-Americans with an endless flight of broken-down stairs, such as might be found in the training and crumbling and crumbling the stairs." tenements in which many poor blacks found themselves forced to live in the ghetto neighborhoods of the northern cities." MotionHughes uses strong verbs throughout the poem to simulate the action of climbing the stairs. This means that he sees life as an uphill climb. "Climbin'," "reachin'," "turnin'" and "goin'" are all strong action verbs. The mother exhorts her son to keep moving forward and not give up. She says, "Dont you fall now/ For Ise still climbin." Despite the difficulties of life, as pictured in the splintered, bare staircase, the mother still wants her son to keep moving, striving and succeeding.