

## **Dream Deferred 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?