

Date 4 / 24 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Dream Deferred"Author / Director / Langston Hughes

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I found "Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes on a website entitled Poetry Foundation after Mr. Shakely recommended doing a poetic vision log on the poem.

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

The speaker of "Dream Deferred" asks the listener to contemplate what happens if dreams are postponed or put on hold. The speaker then offers potential answers, metaphorically of course, that concretize dreams into various things that the viewer can relate to. For instance, he ponders whether a dream put on the back-burner simply "dr[ies] up / like a raisin in the sun" or if it "crust[s] and sugar[s] over- / like a syrupy and sweet syrup." He also specifically wonders if the deferred dreams will be bothersome like gross and open sores, or if they rot and simply die away like rotten meat. Finally, in the last line, the speaker says, "Or does it explode?," referring to postponed dreams could that cause harm or destruction.

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

The main theme of this poem revolves around the ideas of dreams, hopes, and plans, and what it means to truly pursue one's ambitions. Dreams may have noble and great end results; however, they aren't really dreams if they are never pursued, and this poem particularly pertains to the instances in which a person leaves his dreams in the background of his mind rather than prominently in the fore front. Whether it be the stresses and pressures of everyday life or the increasing amount of responsibilities one undertakes as he grows older that are inhibiting a person from pursuing his dreams, the speaker of this poem truly wants the reader to understand the reality of dreaming and the danger of not acting upon his dreams, and this is evident in the last line of the poem itself. The poem also portrays the danger of thinking about dreams in too abstract of a manner, as the speaker compares dreams to earthly and worldly items and materials. Dreams should be realistic not insurmountable, and, if they are not cared for or acted upon, they will ultimately come to haunt a person.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Dream Deferred" is written simply in free verse and irregular meter. In fact, the poem only consists of six questions and one short and abrupt sentence. The poem never gets to a definitive answer that it asks in the first line, causing the reader to think and to try and find an answer for himself. Somehow, however, the write of the poem seems to be hinting at the fact that deferred dreams explode, as stated in the last line of the poem, because it is set apart from the rest and even italicized. This answer to the question suggests the danger of being idle with one's dreams.

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 sincerely enjoy this poem because I think it brings to life an interesting and somewhat abstract concept or idea that isn't really discussed or thought about on a regular basis. Because of how demanding society has become on the individual with the increase in technology, knowledge, and education, dreams are often left behind in the dust, unable to be pursued as people are more concerned about and focused on daily tasks and endeavors. The repercussions of lingering dreams may never even be anticipated, but they may eventually manifest themselves in harmful and destructive ways, according to Hughes. Leaving one's personal callings unanswered can result in a huge build up of inadequate feelings and emotions, as if one has been wasting his or her life accomplishing insignificant tasks and pursuits, ultimately evoking sensations of regret and disappointment. I think that this poem clearly relates to the pursuits of Victor Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Although Frankenstein ultimately failed with his extreme and radical experiments that were directed towards an overall benefit of mankind, he at least took to his dreams and inner urgings right away in order to avoid inner conflict and doubt within himself. Overall, I find this poem to be particularly poetic because, through warning people of the drastic consequences of deferring dreams, it encourages people to go out into the world and to find what makes them personally fulfilled and satisfied. In the end, the quality of a person's life isn't determined by how much money he makes or how many material items he owns, but is instead based on the personal contentedness one achieves by doing what he loves or has always desired to do.