TP-CASTT “Dream Deferred” by Langston Hughes

T-Title

We think the poem will be about dreams that are put off and that have died.

P-Paraphrase

Stanza 1: The speaker asks what happens to dreams that are deferred/old/faded?

Stanza 2: The speaker is guessing the possibilities: it could become a raisin, an infected cut, rotten meat, or crusty syrup.

Stanza 3: It could also be a heavy load.

Stanza 4: It could explode.

C-Connotation

Similes: He compares it to a raisin because it gets old, dried out, loses life

He compares it to a sore because it hurts to have old dreams and not do anything about them.

He compares it to a piece of rotting meat because old dreams deteriorate over time.

He compares it to crusty syrup; a dream can still be sweet but it’s not as good as it once was.

He compares it to a heavy load because an old dream can burden you.

Metaphor: He compares it to a bomb because a dream can get dangerous b/c it makes one go crazy.

The last line is in italics; suggests importance

A-Attitude

1. Self-disgust—“rotten,” “dry” “fester” “sore”

2. Curious—He’s asking a lot of questions (6 ? marks)

3. Frustration—Last line (italics)

S-Shift

1. He changes from curious to frustrated in the last stanza.

T-Theme

1. Old dreams can be frustrating, negative and dangerous.

T-Title

He named the poem “Dreams Deferred” because it’s his main focus.