**Langston Hughes Poetry Prompts**

**“Dreams”**

**Directions:** Choose a big, abstract topic (like dreams or life) and think of 2 different metaphors to describe the topic(s).

Format/Guidelines:

* 2 stanzas/4 lines each
* Rhyme scheme:

A

B

C

B

* Repetition of first line of stanza (“Hold fast do dreams”)
* Second lines are just slightly different from one another (“For if dreams die”; “For when dreams go”)
* Each stanza has a different metaphor about the topic (e.g. broken-winged bird, barren field)

**“Harlem”**

**Directions:** Begin poem with a big, abstract question. Have the subsequent stanzas ask more specific follow-up questions to the big question.

Format/Guidelines

* First stanza is a single line (big, abstract question)
* Subsequent stanzas ask more questions based on the first big question
* Use repetition to start lines (“or”)
* Use similes throughout poem (“like a raisin in the sun”, “like rotten meat”, “like a syrupy sweet”)
* Finish with another single line (big question)