

"Dreams" Poems

Read and follow all directions carefully!!!

You read two poems by Langston Hughes that each dealt with the main idea of "dreams." Hughes used similes in "Harlem" to vividly depict what can happen when you "put off" your dreams, whereas he similarly used metaphor in "Dreams" to figuratively show what a life void of ambition can become.

Using your knowledge of those poetic devices (simile and metaphor), you will be writing your own poem(s) in which you will depict your own "dreams" (goals/ambitions). You may choose to write two poems or one longer poem, but **your poetry must deal with "dreams"** and must contain the following necessary devices:

- **at least 3 similes**
- **at least 3 metaphors**
- **at least two examples of personification**

Use your completed 3 column analysis for Hughes' poems help you! Feel free to model Hughes' style. Remember, you may choose to include all of your elements in one poem (as I have done below) or spread them out across two poems (maximum) – as long as all of the necessary figurative language is utilized!

Please take this seriously, as it is a *minor grade* and your poem(s) may be posted on the wall in the classroom!

Here is an example that I have written:

Plans

"For I know the plans I have for thee," sayeth He.

Plans that are dreams left to fester inside
Of a soul whose ambition's been swept out by the tide.

Plans that are seeds never planted nor sown
When the choice to achieve them is made on your own

What happens to plans best laid like a stone
Whose weight is like a burden no man can carry alone?

Is it you or your plans that collapse underneath
When you've put dreams away like a sword in its sheath?

Take heed, my beloved, as hard as it seems
Let the master of plans be in charge of your dreams,

For He knows the plans He has for you sayeth He,
Plans laid out to bless you if you'll just let it be.