**More poetry by Langston Hughes**

**Directions:** Read all three of the following poems and choose one to analyze more fully. Use your chosen poem to answer the questions below using complete sentences.

**Harlem**

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?*

**Dreams**

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

**Genius Child**

This is a song for the genius child.   
Sing it softly, for the song is wild.   
Sing it softly as ever you can—   
Lest the song get out of hand.

*Nobody loves a genius child.*

Can you love an eagle,   
Tame or wild?

Wild or tame,  
Can you love a monster   
Of frightening name?

*Nobody loves a genius child.*

*Kill him—*and let his soul run wild!

1. What is the subject of this poem?
2. Who do you think the speaker is? If you get stuck, try finishing the thought below.

The speaker is someone who….

1. Underline or circle all the metaphors. What two things is the speaker comparing in each metaphor? Choose at least two to analyze further.
   1. The speaker is comparing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These two things are alike because…
   2. The speaker also compares \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These two things are alike because…
2. What is the tone? In other words, how does the poet want us to feel about the subject? How do you know?
3. What is the poet’s theme (message)?