**Name: . Period: .**

Total Points

.

**50**

**4 pnts**

**2 pnts**

**2 pnts**

**4 pnts**

**4 pnts**

**4 pnts**

**The Harlem Renaissance & The American Dream**

**Introduction - The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution** - Pages 910 - 911

1. Describe at least 2 positive things that happened during the Harlem Renaissance.
2. What did the artists during the Harlem Renaissance celebrate?
3. Explain how life was disappointing for African Americans after World War I.
4. Describe both sides of the debate that the scholars have had about the Harlem Renaissance.
5. After reading the introduction, explain at least 2 difficulties that would have kept African Americans from achieving the American Dream.
6. After reading the introduction, do you think a person’s socio-economic status affects the way they follow their dream? Use specific examples to support your answer.

"I knew only the people I had grown up with, and they weren't people whose shoes were always shined, who had been to Harvard, or who had heard Bach." - Langston Hughes

**4 pnts**

**4 pnts**

Hughes was the first African American author to support himself through his writing; he produced more than sixty books. He earned critical attention for his portrayal of realistic black characters and he became one of the dominant voices speaking out on issues concerning black culture. He wrote in many genres; starting and continuing with poetry, he turned to fiction, autobiographies, and children's books. His most famous fictional character is Jesse B. Semple, nicknamed Simple, who uses humor to protest and satirize the existing injustices.

http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap9/Hughes.html

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I, too, sing America.  I am the darker brother. They send me to eat in the kitchen When company comes, But I laugh, And eat well, And grow strong.  Tomorrow, I'll be at the table When company comes. Nobody'll dare Say to me, "Eat in the kitchen," Then.  Besides, They'll see how beautiful I am And be ashamed -  I, too, am America.  **- Langston Hughes, 1925** | 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?*  - **Langston Hughes, 1951** |

1. What is Hughes' message about dreams deferred?
2. How do "dreams deferred" relate to the American Dream?

**Let America Be America Again**

- [Langston Hughes](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/83)

Let America be America again.

Let it be the dream it used to be.

Let it be the pioneer on the plain

Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—

Let it be that great strong land of love

Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme

That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty

Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,

But opportunity is real, and life is free,

Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,

Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

*Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?*

*And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?*

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,

I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.

I am the red man driven from the land,

I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—

And finding only the same old stupid plan

Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the young man, full of strength and hope,

Tangled in that ancient endless chain

Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!

Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!

Of work the men! Of take the pay!

Of owning everything for one's own greed!

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.

I am the worker sold to the machine.

I am the Negro, servant to you all.

I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—

Hungry yet today despite the dream.

Beaten yet today—O, Pioneers!

I am the man who never got ahead,

The poorest worker bartered through the years.

Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream

In the Old World while still a serf of kings,

Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,

That even yet its mighty daring sings

In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned

That's made America the land it has become.

O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas

In search of what I meant to be my home—

For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,

And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,

And torn from Black Africa's strand I came

To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?

Who said the free? Not me?

Surely not me? The millions on relief today?

The millions shot down when we strike?

The millions who have nothing for our pay?

For all the dreams we've dreamed

And all the songs we've sung

And all the hopes we've held

And all the flags we've hung,

The millions who have nothing for our pay—

Except the dream that's almost dead today.

O, let America be America again—

The land that never has been yet—

And yet must be—the land where *every* man is free.

The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—

Who made America,

Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,

Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,

Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Sure, call me any ugly name you choose—

The steel of freedom does not stain.

From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,

We must take back our land again,

America!

O, yes,

I say it plain,

America never was America to me,

And yet I swear this oath—

America will be!

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,

The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,

We, the people, must redeem

The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.

The mountains and the endless plain—

All, all the stretch of these great green states—

And make America again!

1. According to stanza 1, what does the poet want?

**1 pnt**

**2 pnts**

**2 pnts**

**1 pnt**

**2 pnts**

**2 pnts**

**4 pnts**

**4 pnts**

**2 pnts**

1. What do stanza's 2, 4, 6, 12, and 16 have in common?
2. Who are the dreamers in this poem?
3. What is the dream?
4. What specific things have interfered with the dream?
5. Which lines in the poem ["Let America Be America Again"](http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15609) compare to the poem "[Montage of a Dream Deferred](http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap9/Hughes.html)"?
6. How does this poem help us to understand “[Montage of a Dream Deferred](http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap9/Hughes.html)"?
7. Why do you think Hansberry selected "Montage of a Dream Deferred" as the preface to A Raisin in the Sun?
8. According to the poems, what major obstacle has interfered with African Americans' quest for the American Dream?