



Compare your notes with the teacher's notes below.

Teacher's Notes on "Dreams" by Langston Hughes	
Emotions	<p>What emotions did you feel as you read the poem?</p> <p>I felt hopeful after reading this poem. It sounded inspirational yet bittersweet at the same time. Dreams are important to have, but if they die, so does a part of the individual. I enjoyed the fact that this was a short poem about a simple topic: dreams.</p>
Opinion	<p>Do you agree with the poet's ideas? Why or why not?</p> <p>I agree with Langston Hughes because we all have dreams that are important to us. Dreams help to motivate individuals.</p>
Imagery	<p>What are your favourite images and figures of speech in the poem? Why did you choose them?</p> <p>Images: "A broken-winged bird that cannot fly." What a sad image; one of hopelessness in a sense. "...a barren field/Frozen with snow." A cold, bleak image. Hanging onto dreams: "Hold fast to dreams." I like it because it inspires me to think about the dreams I might have had as a kid, and the dreams I have now. The visual with the poem reflects that perfectly. The kids have harnessed the star.</p> <p>Metaphors: "Life is a broken-winged bird...Life is a barren field"</p> <p>Repetition: "Hold fast to dreams" line 1 and 5</p> <p>Rhyming: die-fly, go-snow</p> <p>Alliteration: "dreams die", "broken-winged bird"</p> <p>I chose these primary images and figures of speech because they reveal what happens to one's dreams if they die.</p>
Sound	<p>What did you notice about the sound of the poem (the rhythm and the rhyme)?</p> <p>This is a very short, two stanza, lyrical-musical poem that contains rhyming words: die-fly, go-snow. Each stanza contains only four lines.</p>
Personal Connection	<p>How does the poem connect with your personal life?</p> <p>I have had numerous dreams, some silly, some exaggerated, but having a dream and working towards accomplishing it is important to me. I can connect with the frozen field image because when I fail at a task, I have a similar sense of loss.</p>
Question	<p>What would you ask this poet about the poem, if you had the chance?</p> <p>I would ask him what dreams he had and which ones he might have let die. Also, I might ask him what inspired him to write this poem.</p>
Real Life	<p>What do you think the poem is saying about real life?</p> <p>Personally, the poem is trying to tell me to hang onto my dreams because without dreams, it is difficult to exist.</p>