

Illuminating Imagery – Classic

Harlem: A Dream Deferred

by Langston Hughes

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?

Illuminating Imagery – Classic Student Worksheet

Imagery: The use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation of a person, a thing, a place, or an experience.

Identify how Hughes uses imagery for all five senses in his poem.

- Sight: _____

- Taste: _____

- Touch: _____

- Smell: _____

- Sound: _____

How does the sum total of all of the imagery add up to answering the question put forth by the speaker in line one, “What happens to a dream deferred?”

What is the unspoken message the speaker is telling the reader about going after their own dreams?

Illuminating Imagery – Hip-Hop

Juicy

by Notorious B.I.G.

- It was all a dream
I used to read Word Up magazine
Salt 'n Peppa and Heavy D up in the limousine
Hangin' pictures on my wall
- 5 Every Saturday Rap Attack, Mr. Magic, Marley Marl...
- Now honies play me close like butter played toast
From the Mississippi down to the east coast...
Sold out seats to hear Biggie Smalls speak
Livin life without fear
- 10 Puttin' 5 karats in my baby girl's ears
Lunches, brunches, interviews by the pool
Considered a fool 'cause I dropped out of high school
Stereotypes of a black male misunderstood...
- We used to fuss when the landlord dissed us
- 15 No heat, wonder why Christmas missed us
Birthdays was the worst days
Now we sip champagne when we thirsty
Uh, damn right I like the life I live
Cause I went from negative to positive
- 20 And it's all good...

Illuminating Imagery - Hip-Hop Student Worksheet

Imagery: The use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation of a person, a thing, a place, or an experience.

Line 16 claims that birthdays were the worst days? Why do you think the poet felt this way?

What images from the verse does the poet use to evoke images of the poverty he endured prior to achieving Hip-Hop fame?

What images from the verse does the poet use to evoke images of the rewards of wealth and Hip-Hop fame in the reader's mind?

ESSAY PROMPT: *In Lines 18 & 19 the poet boasts how he turned a negative situation into a positive one. How can you do the same in your own life?*

Poetry Writing Exercise: Imagery

Learning Objective:	Students will identify and utilize the poetic device of imagery.
Standards Addressed:	9/10 W&O 1.3, 1.4; LRA 3.7, 3.11, 11/12 W&O 1.1, 1.2; W 1.5, 2.2
Materials needed:	This worksheet.
Methodology:	See below.

1. **Have students create a column for each of their five senses with some blank space next to each sense they list.**

For example:

- *Touch:* _____

- *Taste:* _____

- *Smell:* _____

- *Sight:* _____

- *Sound:* _____

2. **Give each student a piece of paper with a different object written on it.**

Have each student write down their perceptions of this object by filling in the blanks for their five senses. Encourage them to be vivid, abstract, colorful, literal — anything but boring!

3. **Have students create an additional line of description adding the sixth component of emotion.**

How do they feel about the object? Does it remind them of something (like a relative, a special time in their childhood or a location they once visited)?

4. **Have students use their work (above) as material to write a poem about their object.**

Allow them the freedom to make it as long (or short) as they wish, using rhyme, free verse, personification (teacher's discretion) but stress the importance of using all of the material above in their work.

5. **Have students give their poem a title.**

For example: *Object Poem (Light Bulb)*

Just Give Me the Light

Smooth is my bulb
Tastes like hot electricity
Smells like smokey possibility
Ruler of Light
Gives my home sight
Sound like a buzz
we shut off every night.