“Dreams”
By Langston Hughes

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.
Questions for “Dreams”

1. The theme, or central message, concerns which of the following?
   a. The way to make your dreams come true
   b. The vital link between dreams and hope
   c. The foolishness of unrealistic dreams
   d. The false appeal of dreams of wealth

2. In “Dreams,” Langston Hughes writes a metaphor compares life without dreams to which of the following?
   a. An eagle on a cliff
   b. A bird with a broken wing
   c. A heavy, sagging load
   d. A raging storm

3. “Life is a barren field” is an example of a
   a. Simile
   b. Metaphor
   c. Personification
   d. Onomatopoeia

4. What is the purpose of repetition throughout the poem?
   a. The repetition reinforces how important it is to have dreams
   b. The repetition creates a tactile sensory
   c. The repetition displays contrasting ideas
   d. The repetition has no purpose
“Dreams 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 curst and sugar over—
Like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
Like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*
Questions for “Dreams Deferred”

1. The lines “or crust over like a syrupy sweet?” is an example of which kind of figurative language?
   a. Simile  
   b. Metaphor  
   c. Personification  
   d. Paradox

2. Which of the following is the best paraphrase of the line, “What happens to a dream deferred?”
   a. Putting off a dream can be disappointing, even dangerous  
   b. Some dreams must be put off  
   c. What happens when a dream is not realized?  
   d. What happens when people dream?

3. According to Langston Hughes, a discarded dream does not simply vanish, rather, it undergoes an evolution, approaching a physical state of decay. Why does Hughes describe it in such a vivid way?
   a. A symbol for change  
   b. So the reader can smell, taste, and visualize the dream’s changing state  
   c. To inspire the audience to forget their dreams  
   d. To inspire the audience to not make dreams

4. “Maybe it just sags like a heavy load” means
   a. Dreams are like laundry  
   b. Dreams are like death  
   c. Dreams are similar to a construction site  
   d. Dreams that are not met will weigh on the person’s mind
“The Road Not Taken”  
By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth

Then took the other, as just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.
Questions for “The Road Not Taken”

1. What is the situation described in the first stanza?

2. Why is the idea of a fort in a road an effective symbol for a life choice?

3. What must the speaker decide?
   a. Which friend to invite on a journey
   b. Which road to travel
   c. Which road to cover with gravel
   d. Which vehicle to drive down the road

4. What ultimately draws the traveler to the road he takes despite the fact that the difference between the two roads are slight?
   a. The road is grassy and seems to have been traveled by fewer people
   b. The road seems longer, so it will provide the traveler with more exercise
   c. The road is paved and seems to lead to people and communities
   d. The road seems to be an easier hike
5. Which of the following is the best paraphrase of the line, “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood?”
   a. Two roads met in the forest
   b. In the autumn forest, there was a fork in the path
   c. Two roads lay side by side in the woods
   d. The roads in the woods are confusing

6. The lines “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference” contains figurative language that compare choosing one road over another to
   a. Running a marathon
   b. Making peace with an enemy
   c. Planting flowers and trees
   d. Making an important life decision
"Women"
By Alice Walker

They were women then
My mama’s generation
Husky of voice—stout of
Step
With fists as well as
Hands
How they battered down
Doors
And ironed
Starched white
Shirts
How they led
Armies
Head-ragged generals
Across mined
Fields
Booby-trapped
Ditches
To discover books
Desks
A place for us
How they knew what we
Must know
Without knowing a page
Of it
Questions for “Women”

1. List three images in the poem that convey the women’s determination to help their children:

2. Describe the image of “headragged Generals” What does it describe?

3. What do the women want to discover, and for whom?

4. What is the ultimate resolution that the mothers are trying to achieve?