

**Teaching Langston Hughes' "Harlem":
Additional Resources Recommended by Professor Jason Miller**

1. Miller, Jason. "Langston Hughes' hidden influence on MLK." *The Conversation*, 30 Mar. 2018, <https://theconversation.com/langston-hughes-hidden-influence-on-mlk-91736>
2. "King's Speech." *Sidedoor* from the Smithsonian, 9 Feb. 2022, <https://www.si.edu/sidedoor/kings-speech>.
3. "Stanford's Dr. Lerone Martin & NC State's Dr. Jason Miller on MLK's Dream & Langston Hughes's Poetry." *The Learning Curve* from the Pioneer Institute, 19 Jan. 2026, <https://pioneerinstitute.org/podcast-episode/stanfords-dr-lerone-martin-nc-states-dr-jason-miller-on-mlks-dream-langston-hughess-poetry/>.
4. King, Martin Luther, Jr. "The Dilemma and the Challenge Facing the Negro Today" (recorded excerpt). 17 June 1962, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA. Address. <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/105th19x29owkqmr54lhg/MLK-Fun-Town-June-17-1962-Zion-Hill-Baptist-Church-Los-Angeles.m4a?rlkey=s9nhjvx3njgngsdmpq6abf4k&st=tw05wqz8&dl=0>
5. King, Martin Luther, Jr. "Unfulfilled Hopes." 5 Apr. 1959, Montgomery, AL. Sermon. <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/unfulfilled-hopes-0>
6. Miller, W. Jason. *Langston Hughes*. Reaktion Books, 2020.

Note: This biography is the source for selected images of Hughes memoranda included in the following pages.

Selected Hughes Memoranda

(A)

MEMORANDUM

Does it dry up
like a raisin
in the sun?

Or does it fester
like a sore
~~that~~ run?

Does it stink
like rotten meat?

Or ~~does it~~ crust
and sugar
over - like a
syrupy sweet?

Or does it atom-
like explode
and leave death in

#2

MEMORANDUM

its wake?

Has anybody heard
what happens to
a dream deferred?

Does it just
disappear in
air

as smoke might
somewhere?

#

LANGSTON HUGHES
20 EAST 127TH STREET
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

April 5, 1958

Dear Mrs. Nemiroff:

I can't recall whether I answered your letter of February 8th requesting permission to use the line: "a raisin in the sun", as a title for your three-act play. X

I am happy to give my permission for its use and send you all my good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours,

Langston Hughes
Langston Hughes

Mrs. Lorraine Nemiroff
337 Bleecker Street
New York City 14

X I was in the hospital when your note arrived - and then everything got filled up!

2
Mrs. Lorraine Nemiroff

337 Bleecker Street, New York 14, N. Y.

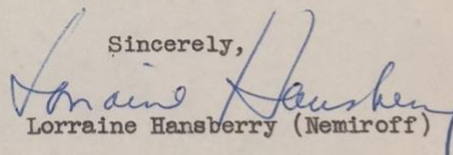
February 8, 1958

My dear Mr. Hughes,

I am the author of a three act dramatic play on Negro family life. I have tentatively chosen as a title for this work a line from one of your poems. The line is: "a raisin in the sun".*

I should be extremely gratified and complimented to receive your consent for the use of this line as a title.

Sincerely,


Lorraine Hansberry (Nemiroff)

*from: Montage of a Dream
Deferred; "Harlem";
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