

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 if dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Activities

1. Copy the poem
2. Down the margin, list each key word in the poem (don't count 'to' 'is' 'a' 'that') and then find the dictionary definition for each.

Hold	Keep with or within the hands or arms
Fast	clasp, support and bear, firmly and tightly fixed, secure
Dreams	
For	
If	
Die	

3. Rewrite each line, using the dictionary definitions to make a fuller explanation.

eg Keep with or within the hands, arms and clasp, support and bear, firmly and tightly fixed, secure all imagined thoughts while awake or asleep, all fantasies, cherished hopes, ambition and aspirations....

4. Write the main message of the poem.
5. Write some of your own 'good advice' in the form of a detailed letter.
6. Cross out all unnecessary words or replace with better words.
7. Rewrite as a poem like Dreams.
8. Swap with a partner. Do 1-4 to their poem.

9. Feedback what you have done.