

Lesson 3

LEARNING GOALS

Strategy: Picture what you read

Reading: Read a poem

Skill: Understand the main idea

Writing: Write a poem

Word Work: Final consonant blends (*ft, ld, mp, nt, st*)

Before You Read

Langston Hughes is a famous African American poet. In this lesson you will read his poem "Dreams." This poem tells us what life is like without hopes and dreams.

1. Why are your hopes and dreams important to you?

2. What can happen to people when they lose their hopes and dreams?

3. What feelings or pictures come to mind when you think about losing your hopes and dreams?

Key Words

- Hold fast means to hold on.
- The broken-winged bird cannot fly.
- No plants can grow in a barren field.

As You Read

In "Dreams," Langston Hughes tells us not to let hopes and dreams die. As you read, what pictures do you see in your mind?

Dreams

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.



After You Read

Discuss these questions.

1. How do you feel after reading this poem?
2. Look at lines 1 and 5. What advice does Langston Hughes give in these lines?
3. Picture a "broken-winged bird." The poet says that a life without dreams is a broken-winged bird. What does he mean?
4. Picture a "barren field." The poet says that a life without dreams is a barren field. What does he mean?
5. Re-read the poem. This time, how does the poem make you feel?

Think About It: Understanding the Main Idea

The **main idea** of a poem is its most important message. Read "Dreams" once more. The main message of the poem is this:

Hold on to your dreams.

Poets often use words to create pictures, or images, that carry their message. In "Dreams," each stanza, or group of lines, has a different image of a life without dreams. The image in the first stanza is:

. . . if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

This is one image of a life without dreams.

Practice

1. What image of a life without dreams does Hughes use in the second stanza? Write it here.

2. Picture the "broken-winged bird" and the "barren field" in your mind. What other words can you think of to describe them?

3. "Dreams" tells us what happens if we let go of our dreams:

- Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.
- Life is a barren field frozen with snow.

What do you think happens if we hold on to our dreams?

Write About It: Write a Poem

Read these poems. Talk about how they are different and how they are alike.

Dreams

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.

Let Go

Let go of hate
For if hate dies
Life is a soaring bird
That owns the sky.

Let go of fear
For when fears pass
Life is a green field
Alive with grass.

- A. Read the poem "Let Go" again. Think of words you can change in the poem.
- B. Write your new poem below.

Let Go

Let go of _____

For if _____

Life is _____

That _____

Let go of _____

For when _____

Life is _____

That _____

Word Work: Final Consonant Blends (*ft, ld, mp, nt, st*)

A. Read the words in each list. Can you hear two sounds in the ending blends?

ft	ld	mp	nt	st
gift	old	lamp	cent	best
left	hold	pump	pint	cost
lift	child	clump	went	fast
raft	field	stamp	grant	must

B. Read the two words under each picture. Pick the word that says what you see. Then write it on the line.



lamp land



chill child



best bent



gift girl



bump pump



field film



send cent



stamp stand

C. Word Families Read the word family words. Write another word you know in each family on the lines.

-amp

lamp

ramp

clamp

stamp

-est

best

test

chest

guest

-old

cold

hold

sold

scold

-ift

gift

drift

shift

swift

-ump

bump

pump

plump

stump

D. Crossword Puzzle Fill in missing letters to complete the puzzle with words from the Word List.

WORD LIST

- BARREN
- BROKEN
- CHEST
- CLAMP
- FAST
- FIELD
- HOLD
- LEFT
- NOW
- OWN
- STAMP
- SWIFT
- TENT
- WENT
- WINGED

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following letters:

- Row 1: O W
- Row 2: H
- Row 3: B O E N
- Row 4: S
- Row 5: R L E T
- Row 6: D
- Row 7: F E D
- Row 8: C A P
- Row 9: S
- Row 10: T N
- Row 11: S I T
- Row 12: W T