Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Close-Reading Questions

Hold Fast to Dreams

1. Why might Kristin Lewis have chosen to open Scene 1 with the line of poetry that she did? (text structure)

2. In the lines of poetry at the beginning of Scene 2, what does the speaker mean when he says that a "fenced-off narrow space" is assigned to him? How is this idea reflected in Scene 2 and in the photos and captions throughout the play? (figurative language, text structure, text features)

3. How does the question asked in the lines of poetry at the beginning of Scene 4 relate to what happens in the scene? (Note that *deferred* means "put off or delayed to a later time.") (key ideas, text structure)

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4. In Scene 4, what does Langston mean when he tells Sartur, "I'll turn my poems into bread"? (figurative language)

5. Scene 6 ends with Langston smiling and saying, "I'm going back to Harlem." Why is returning to Harlem so important for Langston? (inference)

6. What traits helped Langston succeed? (character)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

Hold Fast to Dreams

1. Throughout his early life, Langston repeatedly finds himself an outsider. How might this have influenced his work as a poet?

2. Langston wrote several poems about dreams. Why might this have been a particularly powerful topic for African-Americans in the 1920s and 1930s?

3. How do the lines of poetry in the play add to your understanding of the story? How would the play be different without them?

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