

Name:

Period:



## Poem Analysis: "As I Grew Older"

### I. Prediction

Before reading the poem take a look at the poem's title and based on the title make a prediction of what this poem will be about.

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### II. Comprehension Questions

1. What is the "wall" rising up around the speaker?
2. In what line does the speaker's tone shift and why?
3. What do you think the speaker's dream is?
4. How does the contrast of the darkness of shadows and light contribute to the overall message of the poem?

### III. Analysis:

<p><b>Tone:</b> What is the speaker's tone? How do you know?</p>	
<p><b>Mood:</b> What kind of mood does this poem create? How do you feel after reading it?</p>	
<p><b>Theme:</b> What is the theme of message of this poem?</p>	
<p>Identify as many examples of <b>figurative language</b> as you can in your poem (3 examples <i>minimum</i>).</p>	
<p>What do you <b>visualize</b> when you read this poem? Write down any images that come to mind.</p>	
<p>What <b>questions</b> do you have about the poem? What is still unclear?</p>	

## **As I Grew Older**

It was a long time ago.  
I have almost forgotten my dream.  
But it was there then,  
In front of me,  
Bright like a sun--  
My dream.  
And then the wall rose,  
Rose slowly,  
Slowly,  
Between me and my dream.  
Rose until it touched the sky--  
The wall.  
Shadow.  
I am black.  
I lie down in the shadow.  
No longer the light of my dream before me,  
Above me.  
Only the thick wall.  
Only the shadow.  
My hands!  
My dark hands!  
Break through the wall!  
Find my dream!  
Help me to shatter this darkness,  
To smash this night,  
To break this shadow  
Into a thousand lights of sun,  
Into a thousand whirling dreams  
Of sun!

Langston Hughes