**Cal Stephens**

**February 22 Poetry Response**

**“Dream Variations” by Langston Hughes**

I’m just gonna jump right in. The speaker uses repetition in the indented lines “Dark like me” and “Black like me”. This makes it immediately clear that the poem has racial commentary. On a second read, with that concept more in mind, the reader would notice the line “Till the white day is done” in an entirely different context than they would have on the first go around (forming opinions on this is left as an exercise to the well-discerning reader..)

Also, the speaker parallels “Til the white day is done” with “Till the quick day is done” in the second stanza. I wonder what he’s trying to say here… This one isn’t an exercise for the reader, I’m not actually sure. The *white day* certainly isn’t quick in a racial sense, unless I’m not approaching it from the right view (or unless there isn’t a real connection — but this is poetry we’re talking about!)