**Dreaming Black Boy -**Literature Notes

**Please note that the information given on this poem is not meant to replace any material given in the classroom setting. It is a very BASIC giude to enable a literal understanding of the poem. Metaphorical interpretations should be sought in the classroom.**

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| **The physical structure of this poem has been altered from the original layout in the text.**  1.I wish my teacher's eyes wouldn't go past me today. Wish he'd know it's okay to hug me when I kick a goal.1.Wish I myself wouldn't hold back when an answer comes. 2.I'm no woodchopper now like all ancestor's.  1.I wish I could be educated to the best of tune up, and earn good money and 3.not sink to lick  boots.1.I wish I could go on every  crisscross way of the globe and no persons or powers or hotel keepers would make it a waste.  1.I wish life wouldn't spend me out opposing.1.Wish same way creation would have me stand it would have me stretch, and hold high, 2.my voice Paul Robeson's, my 4.inside eye a sun. Nobody wants to say hello to nasty answers.  1.I wish 2.torch throwers of night would burn lights for decent times. 1.Wish 2.plotters in pyjamas would pray for themselves. Wish people wouldn't  talk as if I dropped from Mars    1.I wish only boys were scared ]behind bravados, for I could suffer. I could suffer a big big lot. 1.I wish nobody would want to earn the terrible burden I can suffer.  King, H. 'Dreaming Black Boy' in A World of Prose. Edited by Mark McWatt and Hazel Simmond-McDonald. Pearson Education Ltd, 2005. | **This is the OPINION of one individual, which might not coincide with the views of others.**  LITERAL MEANING The poem is about ablack boy who wishes that he could have the regular things in life. Things such as acongratulatory hug, to be educated to the highest level and to travel without harassment. The persona yearns to stop fighting for the basic right to be successful, to rise above societal expectations.  Picture  LITERARY DEVICES  1. REPETITION:  The constant repetition of the phrase 'I wish' points to a yearning, a desperation even, for the basic things that life has to offer. The repetition gives credence to the idea that the persona might believe that his wishes are actually dreams that might not come true.  2. ALLUSION:   * Stanza 1, lines 6 and 7, alludes to slavery, the state of lacking control over one's own life and destiny. The fact that reference is made to this hints to how the persona feels about his life. He does not feel as if he has control over it. |

* Stanza 3, lines 19 to 20, alludes to [Paul Robeson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Robeson), a black intellectual, who attained success despite difficult circumstances. The persona yearns to be like this person. He wants room to stretch intellectually.
* Stanza 4, lines 22 to 25, alludes to the klu klux klan. Burning lights refers to the burning crosses and the pyjamas alludes to their white outfits that look like pyjamas. The persona wants them to leave him alone, find something else to do other than make his life difficult, as well as contributing to his wishes remaining a dream.

IlMPORTANT WORDS / PHRASE  
3.'not sink to lick boots'   
This refers to the concept of being subservient.  To have no choice but to kowtow to people in order to get ahead.  
4. 'Inside eye a sun'   
This refers to the persona's mind. He wants to show how intelligent he is without fear. He wants his mind to be a sun. Sun represents brightness and light, that is how he wants his intelligence to shine.  
  
TONE  
The [tone/mood](http://www.bulbsoup.com/ln-comprehension.html) of the poem is one of sadness. The persona is thinking about how he is treated and he reacts to this in a sad way. He keeps wishing that things were different.