

Language

1. The language of the poem is distinctive in its use of verbs. Scan the verses and identify the types of verbs used. Can you suggest why they fit the scene?
2. Football is a team game; each player depends on his fellow. Can you find an example of a simile that seems to describe unity of action?
3. Which metaphor seems to reflect the predominant imagery of Cock-Crows? Why does Hughes choose it?
4. The fourth and fifth verses seem to mark a change in atmosphere. Can you suggest how this change occurs?
5. The seventh verse begins with a co-ordinating conjunction. Can you explain how the tone changes again in this verse?
6. The final verse, as is common in much of Hughes' poetry, leaves us puzzled and questioning the poem's overall meaning.
 - a) What is the '*golden holocaust*'? What does the adjective suggest is being described?
 - b) Why does it watch these young men *again*? (What technique is being used here?)
7. How would you describe the attitude of the speaker to the footballers?
8. What is the overall impact of this poem upon the reader?

