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| **Ebb** |  |
| by [Edna St. Vincent Millay](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/160) | |
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| I know what my heart is like  Since your love died:  It is like a hollow ledge  Holding a little pool  Left there by the tide,  A little tepid pool,  Drying inward from the edge.   1. What does the hollow ledge represent? 2. What does the little pool represent? Or the water in the pool? 3. What does the “drying inward from the edge” represent? 4. What does the tide represent? 5. Based on your answers, write out the full meaning of the poem. 6. Do you see any connections between the poem and real life. Explain 7. What makes the poem effective or ineffective? |  |

**As I Grew Older - Poem by Langston Hughes**

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!

1. What is being compared to the sun?
2. What does the “wall” represent?
3. What does the “shadow” represent?
4. Explain the line “break this shadow /Into a thousand lights of sun”.
5. What emotions are conveyed in the poem?
6. What is the main message of the poem?
7. Is the message of the poem hopeful or pessimistic? Explain
8. Think of a real life situation to which the message of this poem can be applied.