**“Strange Fruit”**

“Strange Fruit”

Southern trees bear a strange fruit,

Blood on the leaves and blood at the root, Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze, Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

Pastoral scene of the gallant south,

The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth, Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh, Then the sudden smell of burning flesh.

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck,

For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck, For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop, Here is a strange and bitter crop.

Abel Meeropol

1. What is the “strange” fruit? Why is it that Southern trees bear “strange” fruit?
2. What kind of fruit do trees usually bear? Explain the cycle of a fruit-bearing tree and compare it to the “strange” fruit-bearing tree.
3. What is ironic about the words “gallant South” and the South that bears “strange” fruit?
4. You will notice that the word “lynching” never appears in the song-why? Is the song

more or less effective because the message is implied instead of stated?