

"Dreams" (All say this)
by Langston Hughes (male voice)

Here, I'm thinking, I want everyone to feel involved immediately and this line speaks to everyone. I want to add an emphasis with deeper voices, so I use males.

Hold fast to dreams
(All) (Males)

For if dreams die
(female voice)

Here, I want to hear an individual voice, something light and soft, yet cerebral

Life is a
(female1) (female1, 1)

broken-winged bird
(female 1,2, male1)

Here, I want to think about a crescendo of voices. I want this to build, and then I'm going to take it down to a single voice in the next line for contrast.

That cannot fly.
(female)

Here, I want to hear only the female voices. This gives this line a particular meaning—what dreams do women have?

Hold fast to dreams
(All women)

For when dreams go
(female 1, 2, 3)

Here, I want to hear only the female voices. This gives this line a particular meaning—what dreams do women have?

Life is a barren field
(male 1, 2)

Like earlier, I want to hear that contrast between female and male voices. The male voices might sound more barren; I'll see.

Frozen with snow.
(All)

Like the first line, I want the last line to be a group line.