"Dream Variations" by Langston Hughes, p. 1107

Read "Dream Variations" by Langston Hughes, p. 1107, before answering the following questions.

1. Which of the following best describes the function(s) of the following lines: "To fling my arms wide/ In the face of the sun" (lines 10-11)?
   I. They celebrate the speaker's visionary nature.
   II. They belie the narrator's trepidation.
   III. They confront an underlying social injustice.
   A) I only
   B) II only
   C) III only
   D) I and II
   E) I and III

2. The speaker's tone, or attitude, in the poem can best be described as
   A) elegiac.
   B) poignant.
   C) enigmatic.
   D) ethereal.
   E) prideful.

3. The narrator associates which of the following sensations in relation to his blackness?
   A) tranquility
   B) exuberance
   C) perseverance
   D) solidarity
   E) resilience

4. In "To fling my arms wide/ In the face of the sun" (lines 10-11), the "sun" can best be interpreted to
   A) change.
   B) tradition.
   C) oppression.
   D) establishment.
   E) justice.

5. In which of the following lines at the narrator's thoughts most clear articulated?
   A) "While night comes on gently/Dark like me" (lines 16-17)
   B) "Night coming tenderly/Blame like me" (lines 16-17)
   C) "This is my dream!" (line 9)
   D) "Rest at pale evening/A tall slim tree" (lines 14-15)
   E) "Beneath a tall tree" (line 6)

6. Which of the following reinforce the strongest message of the passage?
   A) joyful situations juxtaposing introspective poignancy
   B) pragmatic objectivity interspersed with subjective histrionics
   C) first-person exclamation in predominantly omniscient narration
   D) an underlying respect reinforced by patient passiv
   E) light-hearted irony in the beginning contrasted with irony in the conclusion
7. In line 4, "Till the white day is done," the word "white" is alluding to the
   A) glaring heat.
   B) marginalization of blacks.
   C) starkness of urban life.
   D) purity of an ingenuous desire.
   E) strength of defiance.

8. The narrator's primary dream is to
   A) instill sagacity.
   B) confront injustice.
   C) maintain pacifism.
   D) envision equality.
   E) perpetuate the arts.

9. "Dream Variations" was written in 1924 and 1926 by Langston Hughes, a highly respected black poet of the Harlem Renaissance era in America. During this time, "Jim Crow" legislations were still in force—laws that segregated blacks, or "colored" people, from whites. Other injustices such as income inequalities, racial profiling, and excluding blacks from serving as jurors were some of the many prejudicial laws practiced. In a well-organized essay, address the narrator's attitude toward modern-day life as a black man and why the narrator envisions his dream.

10. In a well-organized essay, define who the narrator is and who is his audience.