**"Strange Fruit"**

**By Billie Holiday, performed by Nina Simone**

Southern trees bear a strange fruit  
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root  
Black bodies swingin' in the Southern breeze  
Strange fruit hangin' from the poplar trees  
  
**Pastoral** scene of the **gallant** South  
The bulgin' eyes and the twisted mouth  
Scent of magnolias sweet and fresh  
Then the sudden smell of burnin' flesh  
  
Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck  
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck  
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop  
Here is a strange and bitter crop

**Directions**: In your own words answer the writing prompt below. USE complete sentences.

**Explain** what, “Here is a strange and bitter crop” (line 16 means and how it reflects the racial tensions in the South.