**"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.