Their work irrevocably changed American culture and literature. In black communities, there’s a long tradition of greeting and acknowledgment. Today’s “Wassup?” and “Hey brotha/sista!” goes back to post-Reconstruction and the Great Migration. We recognize and (re)discover our cousins, aunties, parents and siblings in the streets after a history of separation. On the streets of our communities, it can feel like an endless family reunion. During the Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance, it often was. What joy might result when Shakespeare’s comedy of mistaken identity, longing and family reunion unfolds in this world?

—Kent Gash

Dream within a dream,
Our dream deferred.
Good morning, daddy!
Ain’t you heard?

—Langston Hughes