

# Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun



Mrs. Krieger  
English 9 Honors  
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What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up?

Like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat

Or crust and sugar over—

Like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

Like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*

LANGSTON HUGHES

Answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why is Walter such an angry person?
2. At the beginning of the play, why does Walter want Ruth to talk to Mama?
3. Why is Walter resentful toward Ruth?
4. What is Walter's dream? Do you think it can come true?
5. What is Beneatha's dream? Do you think it can come true?
6. Why does Walter pick on his sister?
7. What causes friction between Mama and Ruth?
8. Why is Mama opposed to the liquor store?





22. Does the loss of the money surprise you? Describe the reactions of the characters.

23. Only one short act is left in *A Raisin in the Sun*. What do you expect to happen?

#### Act Three Questions

24. Why does Beneatha tell the story about Rufus?

25. How does Beneatha seem to have changed as a result of Walter's loss of the money?

26. Describe Asagai's attitude toward Nigeria.

27. What does Asagai ask Beneatha to do? How does she respond?

28. What words would describe Beneatha's attitude toward Walter?

29. What does Mama seem to have decided to do?

30. What does Walter mean when he refers to "The Man"? What does Walter plan to do?

31. Explain Mama's comments about love and about all of the work she and her husband did.

32. What surprising decision does Walter make? How does Mama interpret it?

33. What is the last action we see on the stage?

## **Vocabulary**

vain

vindicate

furtive

raucous

incredulity

exasperate

coquettish

scrutinize



plaintively

rebuff

strident

amiable

indictment

forlorn

ominous

groveling

eludes

trek

entrepreneur

reverie

stifle