Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun



Mrs. Krieger English 9 Honors Spring 2009 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?		

9.	What suggestion does Ruth make to Mama about the use of the money? How does Mama respond?
10.	Who was Big Walter? What do we learn about him?
11.	What causes the argument between Mama and Beneatha at the end of the first scene?
12.	Why does Ruth consider having an abortion?
13.	Who is Joseph Asagai? What seem to be his attitudes toward Beneatha? What are her attitudes toward him? Who is George Murchison?
14.	How does Walter describe his frustration to Mama?
15.	How does Walter disappoint Mama at the end of the first act? What do you think will happen next?

Act Two Questions

16. How would you explain the ups and downs in Walter's moods? Ruth's?
17. Compare and contrast Joseph Asagai and George Murchison.
18. What does Mrs. Johnson add to the play?
19. Describe Mr. Lindner. What does he represent?
20. In act 2, scene 1, George says to Walter: "Good night, Prometheus!" Who is Prometheus? What does George mean?
21. What do the family's gifts to Mama reveal about their attitudes toward her?

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?
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		

trek		
entrepreneur		
reverie		
stifle		

eludes