

# A Raisin In The Sun Study Guide

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## **A Raisin in the Sun By Lorraine Hansberry Study Guide**

1. What is the setting of the play? Describe the conditions in which the Youngers live.
2. Briefly interpret Langston Hughes' poem that is recited in the opening scene of the play.
3. Describe the relationship between Walter Lee and Ruth.
4. What important item is coming in the mail?
5. Where does Travis, Walter and Ruth's son, sleep?
6. Why does Walter give Travis \$0.50?
7. Walter mentions Charlie Atkins and his Dry Cleaners business. What does Walter regret about his business?
8. What does Walter Lee want Ruth to ask Mama (Lena)?

**A Raisin in the Sun Study Guide** is an essential resource for anyone looking to delve into the profound themes, character dynamics, and social commentary present in Lorraine Hansberry's iconic play. First performed in 1959, it was groundbreaking for its portrayal of African American life and aspirations, setting the stage for discussions about race, identity, and family in America. This study guide will explore key elements of the play, including its characters, themes, and historical context, providing a comprehensive understanding of its significance.

## Overview of the Play

A Raisin in the Sun centers on the Younger family, who live in a cramped apartment on Chicago's South Side. The play unfolds as they await a \$10,000 life insurance check following the death of the family patriarch, which each member of the family hopes to use to pursue their own dreams. The title of the play is derived from Langston Hughes's poem "Harlem," which questions what happens to a dream deferred.

## Major Characters

Understanding the characters is crucial to grasping the thematic depth of the play. Here are the main characters:

- **Lena Younger (Mama):** The matriarch of the family who dreams of buying a house

to provide a better life for her family.