

Raisin in the Sun  
Act One Study Guide

Act One, scene i

1. What is the setting of Act One, scene one?
2. From the description of the house, infer the socioeconomic place of the characters?
3. What kind of relationship can you infer that Walter and Ruth have?
4. Who is Travis?
5. What kind of relationship does Travis and Ruth have?
6. Why do you think that Ruth and Walter are so bitter?
7. "So you would rather be Mr. Arnold than be his chauffeur. So I would rather be living in Buckingham Palace." Identify speaker and meaning.
8. Who is Beneatha?
9. What is the difference between Beneatha and Walter and Ruth?
10. Who is the check coming for?
11. What does Walter think about Bennie becoming a doctor?
12. What does this say about how he views woman, blacks, ect.?
13. Why is the check coming?
14. What are words you would use to characterize Mama?

15. "We ain't no business people, Ruth. We just plain working folks." Identify speaker and meaning.
16. What does Ruth suggest Mama do with the money? Why is this odd?
17. How much money is the check going to be?
18. What does Mama want to do with the money?
19. "Yes, life can be a barrel of disappointments sometimes." Identify speaker and meaning.
20. What kind of father was Big Walter?
21. What kind of person is George?
22. What does Ruth think is the most important thing about George?
23. "There simply is no God-there is only man and it is he who makes miracles." Identify speaker and meaning.
24. Why does Mama think that there is something wrong with her children?
25. What does the plant symbolize for Mama?
26. What happens to Ruth at the end of the scene?
27. Who do you think should get the money?

Act One, scene ii

1. What is the setting of Act One, scene two?
2. According to the stage directions, what is going on in the house?

3. Where has Ruth gone?
4. During the conversation about Asagai, what are the differences between Mama and Beneatha?
5. What news does Ruth bring?
6. Is she excited about this news?
7. What does Asagai bring for Beneatha?
8. How does Asagai feel about Beneatha?
9. What does Asagai call Beneatha?
10. What does the name mean?
11. Do you think that it fits Beneatha?
12. How does everyone act when the check arrives?
13. What does Mama say that upsets Walter so much?
14. Why is dangerous for “ a man to go[es] outside his home to look for peace”?
15. What does Walter mean that “Life is money.”?
16. Do you agree or disagree?
17. What does Mama think Ruth really went to do?
18. What makes Mama so angry about Walter’s reaction to Ruth’s news?

Mrs. Hollingsworth  
English 11

**A Raisin in the Sun**  
Act Two Study Guide

Act Two, scene one

1. What is the setting of Act Two, scene one?
2. What is Beneatha wearing?
3. According the stage directions, when Walter enters he is in what state?
4. What dream does Walter enter?
5. What has Beneatha done to her hair?
6. Why does Beneath say she is acting the way she is?
7. Do you think that she is right?
8. What has George's father invested in?
9. Why do you think that George does not really listen to Walter?
10. When George makes a reference to Prometheus, a character from Greek mythology, he is using what poetic device?
11. Do you think that Walter or Ruth is right?
12. "How we gets to the place where we scared to talk softness to each other." Identify speaker and meaning.
13. What has Mama done with the money?
14. What about the house is so appealing to Mama?

15. What kind of people live in Clybourne Park?

16. "So you butchered up a dream of mine-you-who always talking 'bout your children's dreams..." Identify speaker and meaning.

Act Two, scene two

1. What is the setting of Act Two, scene two?
2. What is the crux of the argument that George and Beneatha are having?
3. Who comes to the apartment?
4. How does Mama respond to the guest?
5. What does Miss Johnson tell Mama about?
6. What do you think her motivation for telling them this is?
7. "It's just-you know how some of our young people gets when they get a little education." Identify speaker and meaning.
8. What does Mama say about Walter?
9. Do you agree with Mama or Miss Johnson?
10. What does Ruth discover about Walter?
11. What has Walter been doing?
12. Is what Walter did irresponsible or deserved?

13. What does Mama do for Walter?

14. "It ain't much, but it's all I got in the world and I'm putting it in your hands." Identify speaker and meaning.

15. Why do you think the author choose to put the small exchange between Travis and Walter?

16. What is Walter's fantasy?

#### Act Two, scene three

1. What is the setting of Act Two, scene three?

2. What day is it for the family?

3. What does Ruth want to do in the new house?

4. What did Walter and Ruth do the previous night?

5. How has Walter changed from earlier in the play?

6. Who comes to the apartment?

7. What is the message that he brings?

8. "You just can't force people to change their hearts, son."

9. What is Mama taking to the new house?

10. What gift had Walter gotten for Mama?

11. What does Travis give Mama?

12. What has happened with the money?

**A Raisin in the Sun**  
Act Three Study Guide

Act Three, scene one

1. What is the setting of Act Three, scene one?
2. How is there a shift in mood from the beginning of Act Two to the beginning of Act Three?
3. "Don't you see there isn't any real progress, Asagai, there is only one large circle that we march in, around and around, each of us with our own little picture in from of us-our own little mirage that we think is the future." Identify speaker and meaning.
4. What offer does Asagai make to Beneatha?
5. What does Mama think is the solution to the problem?
6. What is Walter's plan?
7. ".I come from five generations of people who was slaves and ahrecroppers- but ain't nobody in my family never let nobody pay 'em no money that was a way of telling us we wasn't fit to walk the earth. We ain't never been that poor." Identify speaker and meaning.
8. What does Mama tell Beneath about love?
9. What does Walter tell Mr. Linder?
10. What is the last thing that Mama takes out of the house?
11. What does this symbolize?