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A raisin in the sun discussion questions act 3

A Raisin in the Sun discussion questions for a raisin in the sun discussion questions as important questions in exploring Hansberry themes. Part 1: Important questions for a raisin in the sun Part 2: Discussion questions for each action Part 1: The basic questions important questions #1: What are the different forms of racism in a raisin in the sun? Systemic racism (and sexism) causes the family's financial distress. Walter can't go further than being a driver just as Big Walter couldn't go beyond manual labor. Mom has never known any work in addition to service, and Ruth can expect the same. The same system (represented by Mr. Lindner) keeps African-Americans paying rent for eternity. Internalized racism plays an important role in the play. The family openly discusses how the views of their African-American neighbor, Mrs. Johnson, are merely harmful as oppression that created them. Despite her experiences, mom refuses to internalize racism, accept the status guo or dignify the views of Mrs. Johnson (and Booker T. Washington.) Mom, if there are two things we as people have to overcome, one is the Ku Klux Klan - and the other is Mrs. Johnson. Walter's internal conflict forces him to choose between internalizing racism for material gain (humiliating himself for Lindner) or preserving his dignity. If he decides to sacrifice his self-respect, he is appealing to his oppression. At the climax of the play, he chooses dignity. Hansberry explores the prejudices against Africa through many of the characters. Under one praises African heritage and seeks to expand his understanding while George, despite his knowledge, openly rejects and insults it. For my mom, people from Africa are completely strangers, and she says: I've never met any African before. For Walter, his only connection to Africa comes in the form of an alcohol-induced fantasy; For him, Africa is a dream. The three phases of this issue make this an important issue about A Raisin in the Sun. Essential Question #2: What happens to a dream postponed? How does a person react when they have lost all hope for their dreams? Do they lash out and then send in (Walter)? Do they refuse to let the dream die despite the incessant wait (mom)? Do they degrade themselves by sacrificing others (Willie)? How does an entire people react when there is no discernible hope for their dreams? Exploring this important question of a raisin in the sun requires some context. Reading the poem that inspired the title of the play is obvious, but I also include works by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and others in thinking about different answers to the exposed dreams of African Americans. Important #3: What is Dream? This important question of A Raisin in the Sun forces students to consider different meanings of this famous term? How has the meaning of this term changed over time? Does it mean different things to different people? What could it mean with a poor, urban, underprivileged African-American family in the 1950s? A further examination of this important question concerns money. What should be the role of money in our hopes and the American dream? What views does the play offer? What does Hansberry say about the nature of money in relation to dreams? Important question #4: What is identity? Huntington Ask students examine what identity means to them. What are the main phases? What views on identity? Is identity? Believe? Values? Money? Prestige? Dignity? Occupation? Personal expression? How do the different characters think of inheritance as an aspect of identity? Hansberry uses Undera is not interested in wealth, faith, or starting a family. For her, identity is about personal truth coming from within. She seeks to find her identity through personal expression, and later through exploring her African heritage. Although never mentioned, Undera acknowledges that American slavery and racism have robbed her of an important connection. Part 2: A raisin in the sun discussion questions for each action a raisin in the sun discussion question: pre-reading What do we know about the civil rights era? What problems were on the minds of African-Americans in 1958? Compare racism today to racism to be collegiate when it comes to differences of opinion. What does the American dream mean to you? How can the American dream mean different things to different people or change over time? What are the most important things in life? A raisin in the sun discussion questions for law I What is the meaning of stage directions describing the younger person's apartment? What is the significance of Walter's anger on eggs? It may seem silly, but what's really going on? Why is Undera the only younger person interested in African heritage? How do family members see their futures differently? How does Hansberry introduce concept dreams? What are the conflicts that have been introduced in Law I? Which are the most important and why? What's Walter so angry about? How does this mind manifest itself? A raisin in the sun discussion questions for Act II What are the different views on assimilation that Hansberry portrays? Analyze the characters' views. What is Of Walter's fantasy about Africa? How does Hansberry develop his dream motif in Act II? Explain your answer. Many productions omit her, but Hansberry argued against her omission. Analyze Walter's character arc in the play so far. How have his views changed from stage to stage? Is Walter a victim or a perpetrator when it comes to broken dreams? Explain. How are some of the character symbols? What do they represent? Think of Hansberry's purpose in including the smaller characters. How does Hansberry illustrate what the protagonists value? A raisin in the sun discussion questions for Act III Which elements of the piece have symbolic significance? How does Hansberry use the symbols? How does Hansberry use ambiguity (when something is unclear) in the play's conclusion? (Think of The Subplot of The Subplot and the outcome of the family's move.) Does Joseph Asagai represent wisdom or naivety (lack of understanding) regarding the dreams of African Americans? What is Hansberry's ultimate message about the dreams of African-Americans? To what extent is the play sexist? Bruce Norris wrote a sequel called Clybourne Park. What do you think Hansberry wants to portray in a sequel to A Raisin in the Sun? How relevant is a raisin in the sun in our society today? What is the content of this relevance? Thank you for visiting A Raisin in the Sun Discussion Questions Lorraine Hansberry was both her time and ahead of her time. A Raisin in the Sun discussion question help us reflect on the life of a poor African-American family in 1950s Chicago and consider race and opportunity in America in general. A Raisin in the Sun discussion question allows students to approach the basic questions of money, dreams, identity, racism, society and values. This piece provides many engaging learning opportunities, but the discussion, students explore the real-life scenarios of A Raisin in the Sun to examine more abstract thematic concepts. A raisin in the sun is an invaluable text in enabling students to think about prejudice in America - past and present. Related post: 10 Great A Raisin in the Sun Assignments Related post: Teaching a Raisin in the Sun Unit and Teacher Guide Featured Image of The Huntington Play is prefaced by a Langston Hughes poem. How does the play illustrate the theme of the poem? Why do you think all the scenes take place in the family house? How is Undera different from other younger family not extent do you think Hansberry criticizes traditional sex roles in the play? In what ways Hansberry challenges stereotypes of African in the piece? How does Walter change from the beginning of the play? Why do you think mom changes her mind and gives Walter the insurance money? Why does Mrs. Johnson say the younger ones are proud? Why is mom's little plant so important to her? What does she mean when she says It expresses ME? What does the new house mean for each of the younger ones? Look closely at Karl Lindner's speech when he talks to the younger ones. What do you notice about how he uses the language? Who is the protagonist of the play? The play was written and produced more than 40 years ago. To what extent do you think that conflicts and problems presented in the piece are still relevant? Content last updated: April 30, 2003 An hour after Bobo's visit, the younger home is quiet and sullen. The lighting is gloomy and gray. Walter lies dismally on the bed while his sister, Undera, sits at the coffee table. Asagai happens to come by: unaware of the last turn, he is genuinely happy and excited about the youngers' moves. Before he is able to get started with a diatribe about movement and progress, Beneatha informs Asagai that Walter has lost his insurance money. Asagai realizes the seriousness of the situation, and asks The Wonder how she's doing.

Below, it seems, has lost hope. For the first time, the public is learning why she wants to be a doctor. Below recalls sledding on ice-covered steps in winter when a young boy named Rufus fell off the sled and seriously injured his head. When the young boy got into the ambulance, Undera thought he was beyond repair, but the next time she saw him, he only has a small line down his face. Undera was fascinated by the specific way a doctor can identify a problem and fix it. Now, after recent events, Beneatha has lost sight of his childhood motivation, and believes that medicine is not enough to solve society's problems. She says: What about all the thieves and just ordinary idiots who will come to power and steal and loot the same as before. Undera feels as if true progress is unattainable, and that her fate is not within her own control. Asagai remains true to his idealism and belief in progress. He talks about how he still has hope for his people in Africa, no matter how many setbacks they may face. He urges Undera to stop living on the past and think about her future. Asagai gives her hope again, surprising Undera by asking her to come to Nigeria with him and practice medicine there. Surprised, she refuses to give him an answer immediately. Walter walks in, and Undera immediately throws sarcastic nicknames at him, such as Symbol of the Rising Class and Titan of the System. Walter leaves without answering his sister. Meanwhile, Ruth and mom are trying to figure out what to do - whether to proceed with the move, or to cancel the deal with men, who are scheduled to arrive soon. Mom reflects on how people in the past always told her that her ideas were too big and feel ready to give up. She is already planning how to make her current apartment more comfortable. Ruth insists, however, that the family should proceed with the move. Ruth prays, Lena-I'm going to work... I'm going to work twenty hours a day in every kitchen in Chicago... I'm going to attach my baby to my back if I have to scrub all the floors of America and wash all the sheets in America if I have to- but we have to move! We gotta get out of here! Walter returns from his errands, having decided on an action plan. He has decided to accept Mr. Lindner's offer to buy the house from youngers for more than they paid. The family is horrified by his decision, but Walter is tired of being exploited. He's tired of being worried about right or wrong, when other people get ahead. Lena tries to reason with her son. She says: I can't let anyone pay them no money which was a way to tell us that we were not fit to walk the earth. Walter's mind, however, is upped. He feels he deserves to have nice things, and believes that doing business with Lindner is just a means to an end. Undera is furious, and narrows Walter like his brother. Mom confronts Undera about her words and insists that it is during Walter's lowest moment that he needs the love and support of the family most. Mr. Lindner and the moving men come at the same time. Ruth wants Travis to step down while Walter takes care of Mr. Lindner, but mom insists Travis stays there and witnesss his father's actions. Under his son's innocent gaze, Walter can't make the deal with Mr. Lindner, saying, We don't want your money. The moment is truly heroic, marking Walter's introduction to manhood. The family, triumphantly, rushes into action as they continue with their move. When the family gathers their things together, Undera announces her decision to become a doctor in Africa. Walter retorts that she should be worried about marrying a wealthy man like George Murchison. The wonder is furious, and they start arguing just as they did at the beginning of the play. Everyone except mom walks off stage. Mom makes sure to take her plant with her, and takes one last look at the apartment before his eyes. He says, Mom, you know it's all broken up. Life is. Sure enough. Between takers and the take. (He laughs.) I figured it out in the end. (He looks around at them.) Yes. Some of us always get tokens. (He laughs.) And do you know why the other of us do it? Because we all interfered. Mixed up badly. We'll see 'round for and errors; and we worry about it and cry about it and stay up the night trying to figure out 'bout mistakes and the right of things all the time... And all the time, man, the takers are out there operating, just taking and taking. Several incidents provoke Walter's reaction. Walter, having been mocked by misfortune, feels as if his autonomy has been lost and his manhood has become weak again. The idealism of the wonder breaks down as she struggles with her brother's failure and its effect on the future. Asagai shows up at Undera's most desperate moment, offering hope. He is able to use his knowledge of Africa's struggle for independence to give her encouragement, even as Walter fights for his own autonomy. Through Asagai, Hansberry is able to connect the importance of global events to the individual. Some critics point out that Undera's relationship with Asagai (and thus her conception of Africa) is romanticized. Unlike Walter, whose dreams and ideas are seriously challenged within the scope of the play, Asagai's idealism remains pure and untouched. Critic C.W.E. Bigsby notes that Asagai is like an oracle whose declarations make sense only to those who are to stereotype African ... rich in wisdom and standing, like the noble savage, as a reminder of primal innocence. At the moment, Asagai's idealistic vision is nourishing Alaiyo's needs. With the loss of money, the whole family must face dreams that are exposed again, and each one reacts differently. Walter and Beneatha aren't the only ones who want to give up. Mom leaves hope, asks the children to unpack and cancel the moving men. She says, Lord, ever since I was a little girl, I always remember people saying, 'Lena-Lena Eggleston, you're aiming too high all the time. You have to slow down and see life a little more like it is. Just slow down some.' That's what they always used to say at home-'Lord, that Lena Eggleston is a high-minded thing. She'll get her because one day!'] Mom feels as if the unfortunate loss of the insurance money is due to punishment for having high expectations. She has accepted her plot of land in life, and is already planning how to spruce up the apartment. Ruth is the only person who is not willing to let go of her dream so easily. When Lena gives up and starts making preparations to stay, Ruth insists: We have to move! We gotta get out of here!! She is willing to work more jobs to make the move possible. Although their goals are very different in nature, the insurance money from Walter Sr. is the catalyst for each of their dreams. The \$10,000 offers youngers the opportunity to achieve salvation: Mom will get her dream home, Undera her medical education, and Walter his liquor store. But the money comes at a price: Walter Sr. must die for the younger to have any chance of getting out of his useless In many ways, the insurance money acts as a deus ex machina. The term used in reference to a trope in ancient Greek plays when a character doomed to die is miraculously saved from destruction. At first glance the lucky and unfortunate ways the money comes in and exits the younger household add absurdity to a play in which circumstances and fate seem to overpower human autonomy. However, Hansberry complicates this assumption by making Walter's decision to choose dignity instead of submitting the true means of salvation. Salvation.

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