



TEACHER'S PET PUBLICATIONS

LitPlan Teacher Pack™

*for*

A Raisin In The Sun

based on the play by  
Lorraine Hansberry

Written by Mary B. Collins

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## SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *A Raisin in the Sun*

### Act I Scene One

1. Why did Walter ask Ruth what was wrong with her?
2. Why was Ruth upset when Walter gave Travis the money?
3. Who are Willy and Bobo?
4. Walter said, "Damn my eggs . . . damn all the eggs that ever was!" Why?
5. Who is Beneatha?
6. Why was Mama getting a check for \$10,000?
7. Why did Beneatha say she wouldn't marry George?
8. What was Beneatha's attitude towards God?
9. What happened to Ruth at the end of Act I Scene One?

### Act I Scene Two

1. Who is Joseph Asagai?
2. What did Ruth find out at the doctor's office?
3. Why is Asagai's present to Beneatha appropriate?
4. Why is Asagai's nickname appropriate?
5. What does Mama say is "dangerous"?
6. Where did Ruth actually go instead of the doctor's office?
7. Why did Mama call Walter a disgrace to his father's memory?

### Act II Scene One

1. What was Beneatha's family doing when George came in?
2. What are "assimilationist Negroes"?
3. What did Mama do with her money?
4. What was Walter's reaction to Mama's purchase? Ruth's reaction?

### Act II Scene Two

1. How did Ruth find out Walter hadn't been going to work?
2. Where had Walter been going instead of to work?
3. What did Mama do for Walter?

### Act II Scene Three

1. Who was Karl Lindner, and why did he visit the Youngers' house?
2. What was Walter's reaction to Lindner?
3. What presents did Mama get?
4. What news did Bobo bring to Walter?

ANSWER KEY: SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *A Raisin in the Sun*

Act I Scene One

1. Why did Walter ask Ruth what was wrong with her?  
She was kind-of crabby and tired-looking.
2. Why was Ruth upset when Walter gave Travis the money?  
They didn't have money to spare. Also, Walter didn't back her up; he undermined her authority as a parent.
3. Who are Willy and Bobo?  
They are two "friends" of Walter who want him to go in partners with them in a liquor store.
4. Walter said, "Damn my eggs . . . damn all the eggs that ever was!" Why?  
He has been telling Ruth about his dream and she tells him to eat his eggs. He wants to talk and dream of a better life; she wants him to face reality and deal with his present world. This makes him frustrated, makes him feel like she doesn't support him.
5. Who is Beneatha?  
She is Walter's sister who wants to become a doctor.
6. Why was Mama getting a check for \$10,000?  
It was money coming from her husband's life insurance policy.
7. Why did Beneatha say she wouldn't marry George?  
She admitted that he was rich, but she thought he was shallow. She liked him well enough to go out with him, but she didn't love him.
8. What was Beneatha's attitude towards God?  
She said she did not accept the idea of God -- "there is only man and it is he who makes miracles."
9. What happened to Ruth at the end of Act I Scene One?  
She fainted.

Act I Scene Two

1. Who is Joseph Asagai?  
He is a school friend of Beneatha and an African intellectual.
2. What did Ruth find out at the doctor's office?  
She was pregnant.

3. Why is Asagai's present to Beneatha appropriate?  
He gave her clothing from Nigeria. She literally gets wrapped up in her current fad. It also foreshadows her putting on a new life.
4. Why is Asagai's nickname appropriate?  
It means "One for Whom Bread - Food - Is Not Enough." It is appropriate because he as well as Beneatha and Walter want more from life than just survival. They want a better quality of life.
5. What does Mama say is "dangerous"?  
She says it is dangerous "when a man goes outside his home to look for peace."
6. Where did Ruth actually go instead of the doctor's office?  
She went to see a woman about having an abortion.
7. Why did Mama call Walter a disgrace to his father's memory?  
He had become overly concerned with money and had lost his traditional family values, so much so that he didn't try to convince Ruth not to have an abortion.

#### Act II Scene One

1. What was Beneatha's family doing when George came in?  
Beneatha was in Nigerian dress. Beneatha and Walter were dancing and singing Nigerian songs. They looked rather crazy, and Walter was quite drunk.
2. What are "assimilationist Negroes"?  
"Someone who is willing to give up his own culture and submerge himself in the dominant, and in this case, oppressive culture."
3. What did Mama do with her money?  
She bought (made a down payment on) a home.
4. What was Walter's reaction to Mama's purchase? Ruth's reaction?  
Walter was very disappointed. Ruth was elated.

#### Act II Scene Two

1. How did Ruth find out Walter hadn't been going to work?  
Walter's boss called.
2. Where had Walter been going instead of to work?  
He had been driving and walking and watching people.