Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English 9

Ms. Sager

**Raisin in the Sun**

A Three Act Play by Lorraine Hansberry

Please answer the following questions on loose-leaf paper in your binder. Copy down the question and then write your answers in grammatically correct, complete sentences. Include relevant textual evidence as necessary. Please write neatly and legibly. The questions may be assigned for class work or homework as we read the play.

**Act 1. Scene 1**

1) Describe the setting in Act 1. What inferences does the author expect us to make based on the information she decides to include at the opening of the play?

2) Describe and discuss the Younger's living quarters. Why does the author include specific details about their sleeping arrangements, bathroom, etc. (inference)?

3) Who is Ruth and how is she characterized in the play?

4) Who is Walter and how is he characterized?

5) What is ironic about Walter giving Travis fifty cents?

6) What is the conflict that Walter and Ruth are engaged in first thing in the morning? Why does Walter say, “…I’m choking to death…,” and how does Ruth respond?

7) Who is Beneatha and how is she characterized?

8) Who is Lena (Mama) and how is she characterized? What is Mama expecting in the mail and what is its significance?

9) What can we infer from Mama’s and Beneatha’s differences regarding God? Why do you think Beneatha defers to Mama when she slaps her?

10) What is the conflict between Walter and Beneatha? Explain each character's dreams and goals.

11) What dreams did Mama share with Big Walter? Were they fulfilled?

12) How does Act 1.Scene 1 end?

**Act 1. Scene 2.**

1) What is Beneatha doing at the beginning of Act 1.Scene 2 ? How do we know that this is a ritual in the Younger house, and, what is the author's purpose for including this particular ritual?

2) Who is Asagai? What can we infer about Mama (character development) from the conversation she has with Beneatha about "Africans"?

3) What does Ruth find out at the doctor's office? How do Mama’s and Beneatha’s differing reactions to the news contribute to their individual character development?

4) What is the "sudden commotion" and why does Travis get scolded? What is the author's purpose in including this incident at this point in the plot?

5) Why is Beneatha pleased with the robes Asagai brings her?

6) What is an assimilationist? Why does Asagai call Beneatha an assimilationist, and what is Beneatha's response?

7) How does Walter react to Mama’s refusal to invest in a liquor store?

8) What explanation does Walter give Mama when she questions him about how he has changed recently?

9) Why does Mama tell Walter that he is a disgrace to the memory of his father?

10) How does Act 1 end?

**Act 2. Scene 1**

1) What is the comic relief at the opening of Scene 1? What is it juxtaposed with (what just happened in the previous scene)?

2) Why has Beneatha decided to wear her hair unstraightened? What is George's and Ruth's reaction to her hair?

3) How is George Murchison characterized? How does George respond to Walter's drunken ranting? What can we infer about George from his interaction with Walter?

4) What has Mama done with the $10, 000? Why is the family shocked when she mentions Clybourne Park?

5) Describe and discuss Walter's reaction to Mama buying the house.

**Act 2. Scene 2**

1) Why do George and Beneatha argue at the beginning of Scene 2? How do George’s and Beneatha’s perspectives on education differ?

2) What does Mrs. Johnson predict will happen after the Youngers move to Clybourne Park? What does Beneatha mean when she identifies Mrs. Johnson as something that black people must overcome?

3) Why do you think Walter has stopped going to work?

4) Why does Mama tell Walter that she has been wrong about not giving him the money for his business venture?

5) What does Mama tell Walter about the $10,000? What exactly does she want Walter to do with the balance after the down payment for the house?

7) How does Scene 2 end?

**Act 2. Scene 3**

1) Why is there a mood of elation in the Younger household?

2) Who is Karl Lindner and what does he want to discuss with the Youngers? How does he present his proposition to the Youngers?

3) What does Mama's little plant symbolize?

4) Who are Willy and Bobo? What has happened to the money that Mama entrusted to Walter?

5) Compare the mood at the end of the scene to that at the beginning.

**Act 3**

1) Why does Beneatha not want to be a doctor anymore? How does Asagai respond to this? What does Asagai propose to Beneatha?

2) What crushing announcement does Mama make regarding the move? How is it received by Beneatha and Ruth?

3) Why does Walter invite Mr. Lindner back? Describe his inner conflict in making this decision. What advice does Mama give him?

4) Explain why Mama scolds Beneatha for berating Walter.

5) Why does the author have Mama come back onstage to pick up the plant?

6) Does the play end on a positive or negative note?