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

***A Raisin in the Sun*, Act 1, Scene 1**

Answer **all parts** to the questions using complete sentences. Use **names** instead of pronouns and provide **text evidence** (quotes and page numbers) to support your responses.

1. What does the description of the setting indicate about the character of the family? List three words that personify the room.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is often a symbol for hope. After reading the description of the apartment, what can you infer about the family’s level of hope?
3. Describe Ruth in one word:
4. Walter is described as “quick,” “nervous,” and “erratic,” and “in his voice is the quality of indictment.“ How would you describe Walter?
5. Walter comments that the newspaper reported that they “set off another bomb yesterday.” What is this a reference to? How does this help set the mood for the play? What is Ruth’s reaction to the report and why might she have this reaction?
6. Copy **three** quotes that illustrate the dynamic between Walter and Ruth. How would you describe their relationship based on your quotes?
7. Describe the relationship between Ruth and Travis and compare the relationship to the father/son relationship between Walter and Travis.
8. Provide a quote that illustrates that Walter equates money with pride.
9. Briefly discuss an instance where Travis reflects his father’s values.
10. From the stage directions describing Beneatha’s speech, what can you discern about her character?
11. Provide a quote that illustrates that Walter is okay with others’ dreams being deferred.
12. Provide three descriptive statements from the stage directions that illustrate Mama’s character.
13. If hope is symbolized by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, what might Mama’s plant symbolize? Quote the comment that she makes that illustrates the lack of hope for her family.
14. Identify an instance where Mama displays a controlling personality.
15. Why does Ruth choose to advocate for Walter and encourage Mama to support his liquor store?

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1. What racial stereotype does Ruth reveal during her discussion with Mama about calling in sick to work?
2. What dream deferred does Mama mention during the discussion of the insurance money?
3. Provide a quote that illustrates why Beneatha finds George Murchinson unappealing.
4. Quote two examples where Ruth’s fainting at the end of the scene is foreshadowed.
5. In a MELCon paragraph, discuss the conflict that emerges between Mama and Beneatha concerning God. How is the conflict resolved?

## ***A Raisin in the Sun*, Act 1, Scene 2**

Answer all parts to the questions using complete sentences. Use names instead of pronouns and provide text evidence (quotes and page numbers) to support your responses.

1. Mama tells Beneatha that Ruth had to go on “a little errand.” Provide a quote that indicates that Beneatha realizes where Ruth has gone.

1. Mama refers to a cockroach “marching out of there like Napoleon yesterday.” The allusion to Napoleon reminds the audience of Beneatha referring to her mother as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Provide a **quote** that describes Asagai.
3. Beneatha’s name sounds a bit like “beneath her.” Beneatha may be *beneath* her mother, or maybe she thinks her own mother is somehow *beneath her.* Provide a quote to show one or the other and **explain**.
4. **Describe** the reactions of Ruth, Mama, and Beneatha to Ruth’s pregnancy. Use quotes to show how each reacts.

Ruth—

Mama—

Beneatha—

1. Why does Ruth have such an intense reaction to Travis chasing the rat in the street?
2. Beneatha tells Asagai that her family is suffering from “acute ghetto-itis.” What does she mean?
3. What is ***assimilationism***? What does Asagai feel about assimilationism? What does Beneatha feel about assimilationism?
4. Asagai remarks, “It’s how you can be sure that the world’s most liberated women are not liberated at all. You all talk about it too much!” What is he observing about the American women he has encountered?
5. Asagai calls Beneatha, Alaiyo. What is the translation of this nickname? Why is this name appropriate for Beneatha?
6. Why is Mama saddened by the arrival of the life insurance check? Provide a quote and explain.
7. What slip up did Ruth make earlier when talking about her doctor visit, that prompts Mama to ask her for more specific details of the appointment? What does Mama speculate about Ruth’s pregnancy?
8. Miscommunication among family members is a theme in the play. Discuss the miscommunication between Ruth and Walter, and Walter and Mama when Walter arrives in Scene 2.
9. Walter exclaims, “Then why can’t there never be no peace in this house then?” Why does he say this? What does he mean? How can peace come to the Younger family?

1. Provide a **quote** that, once again, indicates that Walter is fixated on money.
2. Why does Mama say Walter should be proud? **Explain** and provide a **quote**
3. Describe Walter’s reaction to Mama implying that Ruth is going to abort her pregnancy.
4. Provide a **quote** that illustrates what Mama means when she tells Walter to “be your father’s son.”