***A Raisin in the Sun*: Literary Allusions, Act 2**

In the play A Raisin in the Sun, Hansberry uses several allusions to culture figures and concepts. For this assignment, you will explore the references she makes.

**Assimilationism**

At several points on the play, the word *assimilationism* is brought up. It causes a strong reaction in Beneatha. On page 83, she explains what it means to Ruth and Water. Copy down Beneatha’s definition:

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How is the term assimilationism explored in the play? Give two examples and explain what they mean in relationship to assimilationism. (Hint: Asagai teases Beneatha about straightening her hair and Beneatha turns off the music Ruth and Walter are listening to.)

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| **Provide quotes and page numbers** | **Explain how these could be examples of assimilationism.** |
| Example 1 |  |
| Example 2 |  |

**Uncle Tom**

On page 83 of the play, George says, “Oh, it’s just a college girl’s way of calling people Uncle Toms—but that isn’t what it means at all.” George is making a reference to a novel called *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Do a little research on the book and answer the following questions:

1. Who was the author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What year was the book written? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Summarize the plot of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin.*

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**Prometheus**

On p. 88, as Beneatha and George are leaving the Younger’s apartment to go to the theater, George say to Walter, “Good night, Prometheus!” Walter, of course, wants to know who Prometheus is. Let’s find out! Do a little research on Prometheus and answer the following questions. Hint: He comes from classical mythology, something you studied freshman year.

1. Who is Prometheus? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is he being punished for and by whom? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Connection to *Raisin***

In what ways might George be like Uncle Tom?

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In what ways might Walter Lee be like Prometheus?

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In what ways does Beneath struggle with her own identity and the assimilationism she sees around her?

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