

A RAISIN IN THE SUN TEST

Name: _____

RECALL AND COMPREHENSION

- 1) This play is set in _____ in the _____.
 - A. Atlanta (in the) 1890s
 - B. New York (in the) 1910s
 - C. Los Angeles (in the) 1930s
 - D. Chicago (in the) 1950s
- 2) The Youngers' apartment is...
 - A. Luxurious but messy.
 - B. Shabby but clean.
 - C. Luxurious and spotless.
 - D. Shabby and filthy.
- 3) What is Beneatha Younger's main hobby?
 - A. Singing in a chorus
 - B. Writing plays
 - C. Photography
 - D. Trick question! She likes to jump from one hobby to the next
- 4) What does Walter Lee want to do with the money from the life insurance policy?
 - A. Start a business
 - B. Buy a car
 - C. Move to another city
 - D. Give it to charity
- 5) What does Beneatha plan to do with her future at the start of the play?
 - A. Marry a rich man
 - B. Get a job as a flight attendant
 - C. Publish books and articles (writer)
 - D. Practice medicine (doctor)
- 6) Beneatha is not serious about dating George Murchison because...
 - A. He does not share her values.
 - B. He is too old.
 - C. He is too poor.
 - D. They do not have "the special spark."
- 7) Beneatha practices the religion of...
 - A. Buddhism.
 - B. Christianity.
 - C. Islam.
 - D. Trick question! She is not religious.
- 8) If Mama had the means (opportunity and time), her hobby would be...
 - A. Singing in the choir.
 - B. Gardening.
 - C. Traveling.
 - D. Fine arts (painting, sculpting, etc.)
- 9) What do both Ruth and Mama do for employment?
 - A. Assembly (factory work)
 - B. Serving (in a restaurant)
 - C. Domestic work (cleaning, cooking)
 - D. Trick question! They are not employed.
- 10) What do Walter and Joseph Asagai mainly discuss throughout the play?
 - A. Politics and elections
 - B. A class assignment
 - C. The best ways to get rich
 - D. Their relationship
- 11) What does Walter think of his job?
 - A. It is difficult, but it pays well.
 - B. It is leading him nowhere.
 - C. It is fun and exciting, but it pays too little.
 - D. It will lead to something better over time if he can be patient.
- 12) How does Walter Lee react to Beneatha's performance of traditional African culture?
 - A. He demands that she stop.
 - B. He laughs at it and makes fun of her.
 - C. He joins in.
 - D. He gets angry and leaves.

PREVIEW

13) Joseph Asagai offends Beneatha with his comments about...

- A. The apartment.
- B. Her hair style.
- C. Her choice in music.
- D. Her professional goals.

14) When Beneatha switches to a natural hair style, she shows her opposition to...

- A. Commercialism.
- B. Assimilationism.
- C. Republicanism.
- D. Pan-Africanism.

15) Mama implies that Big Walter (her deceased husband) died from...

- A. Guilt over his past.
- B. Living an "unclean" life.
- C. Working too hard.
- D. Keeping his anger inside.

16) Which character is most concerned with money and material wealth?

- A. Walter Lee
- B. Ruth
- C. Beneatha
- D. Mama

17) When George stops by the apartment, Walter Lee tries to convince him to...

- A. Stop dating Beneatha.
- B. Marry Beneatha.
- C. Set up a business meeting.
- D. Help him move furniture and boxes.

18) Which character is the first to determine that Ruth should get an abortion?

- A. Walter Lee
- B. Mrs. Johnson
- C. Beneatha
- D. Ruth, herself

19) What news about Ruth shocks Walter Lee?

- A. She plans to have an abortion.
- B. She plans to divorce him.
- C. She has been having an extramarital affair (cheating on him).
- D. She was married once before.

20) Which character says, "Let's face it... your heritage is nothing but a bunch of raggedy-assed spirituals and some grass huts!"?

- A. George M.
- B. Joseph A.
- C. Walter Lee
- D. Mr. Lindner

21) Which family member selects the Clybourne Park neighborhood in the first place?

- A. Walter Lee
- B. Big Walter (before he died)
- C. Mama

22) Which choice accurately describes the personality of Mrs. Johnson (the neighbor)?

- A. Supportive and caring
- B. Unpredictable and dangerous
- C. Quiet and mysterious
- D. Petty and annoying

23) Based on the details of the play, which of these characters is the MOST religious?

- A. Mama
- B. Walter
- C. Beneatha
- D. Joseph

24) Walter Lee tries to escape his worries, troubles, and homelife by...

- A. Dating another woman.
- B. Painting fantastic scenes.
- C. Getting drunk in a bar.
- D. Playing basketball in the park.

PREVIEW

25) George Murchison believes that African Americans ought to...

- A. Segregate themselves from white people in all ways possible.
- B. Fit in to the mainstream culture and get ahead financially.
- C. Move to Africa and create new lives.
- D. Stop trying to succeed and accept life.

26) Mama decides to trust Walter Lee with the insurance money because...

- A. He is starting to "act like a man."
- B. She realizes the potential of his plan.
- C. He needs a boost in self-respect.
- D. Trick question! She keeps it.

27) What does Mama do to lift Walter's spirit?

- A. She throws him a party.
- B. She helps him buy a car.
- C. She gives him more responsibility as the head of the family.
- D. Trick question! She does things to help him to solve his own problems.

28) To whom is Walter Lee speaking when he says, "...I mean, after a day of conferences and secretaries getting things wrong the way they do...'cause an executive's life is hell, man...I'll pull the car up on the driveway... just a plain black Chrysler, I think, with white walls - no - black tires. More elegant. Rich people don't have to be flashy...?"

- A. Mama
- B. Ruth
- C. Travis
- D. Bobo

29) Which character predicts that the Youngers will suffer by moving to Clybourne Park?

- A. George Murchison
- B. Mrs. Johnson
- C. Joseph Asagai
- D. Bobo

30) What is Mr. Lindner's main goal?

- A. Encourage the family to move.
- B. Discourage the family from moving.
- C. Cheat the family out of the money.
- D. Get Walter Lee fired.

31) Mr. Lindner's tone in making his offer is...

- A. Polite / courteous.
- B. Insulting.
- C. Threatening / angry.
- D. Informal / humorous (funny).

32) Mama explains that her _____ expresses her identity.

- A. Apartment
- B. Music
- C. Quilt (the hand-sewn blanket)
- D. Plant

33) Who cheats the Youngers out of thousands of dollars?

- A. Samuel (the barber)
- B. Willy Harris (Walter's friend)
- C. Mr. Lincoln (the C.I.A.)
- D. Deborah Scandling (the realtor)

34) The family has second thoughts about moving to Clybourne Park because...

- A. They might not be able to make the mortgage payments.
- B. They will have to send Travis to an all-white school.
- C. There is no public transportation, so they will need to buy a car.
- D. The house is poorly built.

35) How does Walter Lee find out that the insurance money is gone?

- A. He gets a call from the bank.
- B. His boss calls him to a private meeting.
- C. Beneatha tells Walter Lee what she did.
- D. Bobo tells him.

PREVIEW

36) Which character is most concerned with finding their identity?

- A. Walter Lee
- B. Ruth
- C. Joseph
- D. Beneatha

37) What is Joseph's dream for his future?

- A. Marry Beneatha and grow rich in America
- B. Own a newspaper company
- C. Compete in the Olympics
- D. Become a leader in Africa

38) Joseph says that Beneatha's reaction to losing her college money is...

- A. Appropriate and reasonable.
- B. Inappropriate because she is overreacting.
- C. Inappropriate because she is too calm.
- D. Trick question! He says nothing.

39) What is Joseph's suggestion when it comes to Beneatha's future?

- A. Marry George Murchison.
- B. Move to Africa.
- C. Become a nurse.
- D. Stop bothering him.

40) Who says, "I'll work twenty hours a day in all the kitchens... and scrub all the floors in America and wash all the sheets in America if I have to - but we got to MOVE!"?

- A. Mama
- B. Beneatha
- C. Ruth
- D. Walter Lee

41) Walter Lee calls Mr. Lindner on the phone to tell him that...

- A. They will accept his offer.
- B. They will NOT take his money.
- C. They will be good neighbors.
- D. Trick question! He does not call Lindner.

42) The family is most ashamed of Walter Lee when he...

- A. Slaps Ruth.
- B. Acts out a racist stereotype.
- C. Lies to Travis.
- D. Spits on the photograph of his father.

43) Mama says that if Walter is going to humiliate himself for Mr. Lindner, he must...

- A. Do it in front of Travis.
- B. Do it outside of her home.
- C. Learn to look himself in the mirror.
- D. Stop calling himself Walter Lee Younger.

44) The second time Walter Lee meets with Lindner, he explains that the most important thing to the Younger family is...

- A. Money.
- B. Moving to a better home.
- C. Pride.

45) Moving the world a better place

46) Besides Mr. Lindner and Joseph, who comes to the apartment in the final act?

- A. Mr. Hendershot (landlord)
- B. Mr. Kretzen (banker)
- C. Movers
- D. New tenants (the people moving in)

47) At the end of the play, Mama is ashamed of Walter Lee mainly because...

- A. He chooses money over his family.
- B. He disrespects his father's memory.
- C. He is a "no-good loser."
- D. Trick question! She is proud of him.

48) Which of these characters changes the most by the end of the play?

- A. Mama
- B. Walter Lee
- C. Travis
- D. Ruth

PREVIEW

48) Match the characters to their values by choosing the list that matches this order:

Walter Lee, Mama, Beneatha, Joseph.

- A. Identity, money, progress, dignity
- B. Progress, money, dignity, identity
- C. Money, dignity, identity, progress
- D. Dignity, progress, identity, money

49) Beneatha Younger makes her decision about her future clear when...

- A. She agrees to marry George.
- B. She agrees to marry Joseph.
- C. She says that learning is her only love.
- D. Trick question! Her decision is not clear.

50) What is the very last action of the play?

- A. Walter Lee packs his father's picture.
- B. Beneatha stomps on a cockroach.
- C. Mama grabs her plant and leaves.
- D. Ruth sings a hymn (religious song).

51) Which choice accurately describes the stage directions written by Lorraine Hansberry?

- A. She gives minimal (very few) instructions for the director to follow.
- B. She lists of options for the director to consider.
- C. She gives detailed directions about the sets and actions.
- D. Trick question! She gives no directions.

PREVIEW

KNOWLEDGE AND ANALYSIS

52) The idea that all individuals in the U.S. have the opportunity to succeed through their own efforts and talents is called...

- A. The Golden Rule.
- B. The American Dream.
- C. The Fair Bargain.
- D. The United States Standard.

53) The parts of the text that are instructions for the actors and directors are called...

- A. Narration.
- B. Script notes.
- C. Stage directions.
- D. Setting notes.

54) This play is not about raisins, grapes, or any other produce. The title refers to...

- A. A monologue by William Shakespeare.
- B. A speech by Bob Dylan.
- C. A poem by Langston Hughes.
- D. A volume in the Bible.

55) Place these works in order by year of publication (earliest to latest):

- A. "I Have a Dream..." | *A Raisin in the Sun* | "Harlem"
- B. *A Raisin in the Sun* | "Harlem" | "I Have a Dream..."
- C. "Harlem" | *A Raisin in the Sun* | "I Have a Dream..."
- D. *A Raisin in the Sun* | "I Have a Dream..." | "Harlem"

56) Which choice accurately identifies the main conflict of the play?

- A. Beneatha must choose between George Murchison and Joseph Asagai.
- B. The family must decide how to use the insurance money.
- C. The Younger family vs. Clybourne Park
- D. Lorraine Hansberry vs. racism

57) While the main message of an essay is the central idea or thesis, the most important message of a story is the...

- A. Symbol.
- B. Purpose.
- C. Theme.
- D. Point of view.

58) In terms of structure, the arrival of the insurance check is best described as...

- A. The climax.
- B. The inciting incident.
- C. The point of view shift.
- D. The resolution.

59) Which choice accurately identifies the inciting incident of the plot?

- A. Joseph proposes marriage.
- B. Walter asks Mr. Lirner's money.
- C. Lirner offers to pay off the family.
- D. The insurance check arrives in the mail.

60) For most of *A Raisin in the Sun*, the tone of the dialogue is...

- A. Formal.
- B. Informal.
- C. Hateful.
- D. Impassive (not feeling).

61) "He is a lean, intense young man in his middle thirties, inclined to quick nervous movements and erratic speech habits - and always in his voice there is a quality of indictment." This excerpt is an example of...

- A. Word choice (sense of time and place).
- B. Characterization (direct).
- C. Theme / central idea (symbolism).
- D. Word choice (analogies and allusions).

PREVIEW

62) In a drama the term motivation refers to...

- A. Why a character does what they do.
- B. Events that move the plot forward.
- C. The impression the author wants to make on the audience.
- D. The staged movements and actions of the main characters.

63) The recurring element of food is strongly connected to the theme subject of...

- A. African heritage.
- B. Money / poverty.
- C. Dignity and pride.
- D. Hopes and dreams.

64) Which theme statement accurately represents the symbolic importance of food in *A Raisin in the Sun*?

- A. Life must be shared to be enjoyed.
- B. Survival is no substitute for dreams.
- C. Life is a buffet of choices.
- D. When you enjoy something, it is best for you.

65) "...but the carpet has fought back by showing its weariness, with depressing uniformity, elsewhere on its surface." This quote is a prime example of...

- A. Allusion (literary).
- B. Characterization (indirect).
- C. Structure (rising action).
- D. Word choice (personification).

66) "WALTER (Rising and bending over the table) Where were you, Mama? (Bringing his fists down and shouting) Mama, you didn't go do something with that insurance money, something crazy?" This excerpt represents...

- A. Word choice (sound devices).
- B. Structural effects (like mystery, tension, and surprise).
- C. Theme / central idea (symbolism).
- D. Word choice (sense of time and place).

67) Which character best develops the theme on the subject of African heritage?

- A. Beneatha
- B. George
- C. Ruth
- D. Travis

68) Which choice is NOT a theme of the play?

- A. Dignity is more important than money.
- B. Dreams are an essential part of life.
- C. Love and understanding in a family
- D. Many African Americans feel a strong connection to their heritage.

69) "...Bitter? Man, I'm a volcano. Bitter? Here I am a giant surrounded by ants! Ants who can't even understand what it is the giant is talking about." This line is a prime example of...

- A. Structure (pacing).
- B. Structure (climax).
- C. Word choice (figurative language).
- D. Word choice (sense of time and place).

70) The elements of plants and light are mostly connected to which theme subject?

- A. African heritage
- B. Hopes and dreams
- C. Dignity / pride
- D. Sexism

71) Which choice is NOT an element of an author's word choice?

- A. Conflict / plot
- B. Imagery
- C. Dialect
- D. Figurative language

72) The feelings and associations connected to a word or phrase are called...

- A. Connotations.
- B. Figures.
- C. Tones.
- D. Allusions.

PREVIEW

73) Which choice is the definition of dialect?
A. A word's feelings and associations.
B. A form of a language that is specific to a region or group.
C. The narrator's attitude toward the subject of conversation.
D. How the words help the reader imagine with their senses.

74) Beneatha's choice between George, Joseph, or staying single represents a(n)...
A. Symbol.
B. Analogy.
C. Parallel plot.
D. Metaphor.

75) Which choice best represents a parallel plot in the play?
A. Beneatha's romantic choice
B. Ruth deciding to get an abortion
C. Travis trying to make extra money
D. Mr. Lindner trying to dissuade the family

76) Which character connects to the play's message on internalized racism?
A. Mr. Lindner
B. Bobo
C. Ruth
D. Mrs. Johnson

77) Which two characters represent the concept of internalized racism?
A. George / Mrs. Johnson
B. Beneatha / Joseph
C. Lindner / Willie Harris
D. Travis / Bobo

78) Which character represents the concept of systemic racism?
A. Mr. Lindner
B. Bobo
C. Beneatha
D. Mrs. Johnson

79) An extended line by one character is a...
A. Solipsism.
B. Figure of speech.
C. Monologue.
D. Cannonade.

80) Which statement is true regarding literary symbols?
A. They are never referenced in the title.
B. They always have one clear meaning.
C. They can represent multiple or even opposite ideas.
D. They always play a key role in the conflict.

81) Which choice shows MLA in-text citation?
A. "Walter yells: ...DAMN ALL THE EGGS THAT EVER WAS!" (A.R.I.T.S., 34)"
B. Walter yells, "...DAMN ALL THE EGGS THAT EVER WAS!" (Hansberry 34).
C. Walter yells "... DAMN ALL THE EGGS THAT EVER WAS" (Hansberry 34).
D. Walter yells "... DAMN ALL THE EGGS THAT EVER WAS" Hansberry, 34.

82) The moment when the family must decide if they will go through with the move is the...
A. Plot.
B. Climax.
C. Exposition.
D. Inciting incident.

83) Which choice is NOT an effect of structure?
A. Mystery
B. Motivation
C. Tension
D. Suspense

84) In relation to the events of the Civil Rights Movement, this play debuted (opened)...
A. Long before the movement.
B. And started the movement.
C. During the movement.
D. Long after the movement.

PREVIEW

85) Regarding housing rights in Chicago and violent backlash, Lorraine Hansberry...

- A. Predicted the violence to come.
- B. Warned about violence that might occur.
- C. Referred to the violence that was already happening.
- D. Avoided the topic completely.

86) Which method was NOT used by racists to keep black people out of some neighborhoods?

- A. Restrictive rules in home buying contracts
- B. Intimidation and violence
- C. Unfair banking practices (loaning money)
- D. Trick question! All of these.

87) Based on *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*, which choice is NOT a connection between Hansberry's real life and the play?

- A. Hansberry grew up in the South Side neighborhood of Chicago.
- B. The Hansberry family lived in project (extreme) poverty.
- C. The Hansberry family integrated a predominantly white neighborhood.
- D. Her father was a major influence on her.

88) Which of the following would NOT be an example of a primary source?

- A. Photograph
- B. Piece of clothing
- C. History textbook
- D. Handwritten letter

89) In researching the historical context of the play, an object or document that is first-hand material from that time and place is a(n)...

- A. Feature document.
- B. Primary source.
- C. Authority device.
- D. Informational citation.

90) Booker T. Washington advised African Americans of his time to...

- A. Move to West Africa.
- B. Work hard, save money, and overcome prejudice gradually.
- C. Use whatever means necessary (even violence) to exercise voting rights.
- D. Gain advanced degrees as doctors, lawyers, professors, and engineers.

91) The movement of African Americans away from the rural South (1916-1970) is known as...

- A. The Northern Express.
- B. The Southern Exodus.
- C. The Great Migration.
- D. Urban Flight.

92) Which choice is LEAST important as an aspect of the play's historical context?

- A. The Great Depression
- B. Deindustrialization in America
- C. The Civil Rights Movement
- D. The Women's Movement

93) What is the term for the dismissal of one's own culture in order to adopt majority culture?

- A. Indoctrination.
- B. Cohabitation.
- C. Assimilation.
- D. Misappropriation.

94) Which of these items is not symbolic?

- A. George's shoes
- B. Beneatha's Hair
- C. Mama's plant
- D. Walter's eggs

95) Which symbol has the strongest connection to the theme subject of heritage?

- A. Beneatha's hair
- B. The insurance check
- C. Food
- D. Plants

PREVIEW

96) The _____ of Walter's performance as Flamingo shifts from silly to serious.

- A. Point of view
- B. Aspect
- C. Tone
- D. Imagery

97) "And I'll pull the car up on the driveway...just a plain black Chrysler, I think, with white walls - no - black tires. More elegant. Rich people don't have to be flashy... And I'll come up the steps to the house and gardener will be clipping away at the hedges ..."
This excerpt is a prime example of...

- A. Imagery.
- B. Sound devices.
- C. Symbolism.
- D. Plot device.

98) MOST of the literary allusions in *A Raisin in the Sun* make connections to

- A. Shakespearean drama
- B. The Bible.
- C. Non-mythological figures
- D. Movies and celebrities.

99) When the play refers to an idea or passage from the Bible, it is an example of...

- A. Bibliography.
- B. Allusion.
- C. Symbolism.
- D. Imagery.

100) The audience knows that Walter Lee is pursuing the liquor store scheme, but Mama, Beneatha, and Ruth do not. This is called...

- A. Dramatic irony.
- B. Imagery.
- C. Alliteration.
- D. Pacing.

101) The scene where Walter Lee must decide if he will take money from the Clybourne Park Improvement Association is best identified as...

- A. Satirical.
- B. Allegorical.
- C. Metaphorical.
- D. Climactic.

102) In *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry mainly uses symbols in developing her...

- A. Plot.
- B. Themes.
- C. Setting.
- D. Word choices.

103) Which theme statement is the LEAST relevant to *A Raisin in the Sun*?

- A. Hopes and dreams are essential to life.
- B. Dignity is worth more than money.
- C. Violence solves nothing.
- D. Discovering who you are is a part of life.

104) Which choice is the best example of Hansberry's use of figurative language?

- A. Travis takes joy in the killing of the rat.
- B. The outcome of the move is unknown.
- C. Walter Lee uses the N-word.
- D. Mama reveals that her little plant is actually a grape vine.

105) Which two characters demonstrate the greatest changes in point of view?

- A. Mr. Lindner / Mrs. Johnson
- B. Mama / Ruth
- C. Walter Lee / Beneatha
- D. Joseph / George

106) Which character changes the most over the course of the drama?

- A. Walter Lee
- B. Beneatha
- C. Ruth
- D. Lindner

PREVIEW

SHORT ANSWER

107) Sense of time and place: What is the setting of the play and how does Hansberry create that setting in the imaginations of the readers / viewers?

108) What is the historical context of *A Raisin in the Sun*? What changes and/or events were taking place? Identify **THREE** topics relevant to the play’s historical context.

a) **PREVIEW**
b) **PREVIEW**
c) **PREVIEW**

109) Analyze these stage directions in terms of word choice:

That was a long time ago. Now the once loved pattern of the couch upholstery has to fight to show itself from under acres of crocheted doilies and couch covers which have themselves finally come to be more important than the upholstery. And here a table or a chair has been moved to disguise the worn places in the carpet; but the carpet has fought back by showing its weariness, with depressing uniformity, elsewhere on its surface.

110) What does Beneatha mean when she says she is looking for her identity?

111) Explain this excerpt in terms of symbol and theme:

WALTER (*Straightening up from her and looking off*) That’s it. There you are. Man say to his woman: I got me a dream. His woman say: Eat your eggs. (*Sadly, but gaining in power*) Man say: I got to take hold of this here world, baby! And a woman will say: Eat your eggs and go to work. (*Passionately now*) Man say: I got to change my life, I’m choking to death, baby! And his woman say ... Your eggs is getting cold!

112) A drama requires conflict. Briefly explain the main conflict of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

113) Structure: Summarize the main plot of the play by identifying the plot events.

Exposition	
Inciting incident	
Rising actions	
Climax	
Falling action and resolution	

114) How does the language used in the stage directions differ from the language of the dialogue? Why is this difference important?

115) What is assimilation? What views on assimilation and African Americans does Hansberry explore through her characters?

116) Explain this excerpt in terms of characterization:

WALTER (*As he dances with RUTH*) You know, when these New Negroes have their convention— (*Pointing at his sister*)—that is going to be the chairman of the Committee on Unending Agitation. (*He goes on dancing, then stops*) Race, race, race! ... Girl, I do believe you are the first person in the history of the entire human race to successfully brainwash yourself. ... I can just see that chick someday looking down at some poor cat on an operating table and before she starts to slice him, she says ... (*Pulling his sleeves back maliciously*) “By the way, what are your views on civil rights down there? ...”

117) Walter Lee behaves despicably (terribly), yet we sympathize with him. How does Hansberry make you care for Walter Lee in spite of his flaws?

118) Lorraine Hansberry creates one of the most memorable characters in the history of American theatre, Walter Lee Younger. How does Hansberry develop this character and bring him to life? Use relevant literary (characterization) terms in your response.

119) Symbolism: Identify ONE symbol Hansberry develops in *A Raisin in the Sun*. Explain the symbol's meaning and purpose.

120) Theme: What is the central theme of *A Raisin in the Sun*? Which theme does Hansberry emphasize? How does she focus our attention of this theme?

121) Explain this quote in terms of symbol and theme:

MAMA Fixing my plant so it won't get hurt none on the way. ...
BENEATHA That raggedy-looking old thing?
MAMA (*Stopping and looking at her*) It expresses ME!

122) Why does Beneatha say, "Mama, if there are two things we, as a people, have got to overcome, one is the Ku Klux Klan—and the other is Mrs. Johnson"?

123) Mrs. Johnson is the nosy, petty, loud-mouthed neighbor, but what is her purpose in the play? What makes her role more than just a comical distraction?

124) Minor characters in *A Raisin in the Sun* act as human representations (symbols) of larger ideas. Briefly explain the idea represented by ONE of the minor characters.

125) Explain the thematic importance of Beneatha's hair in *A Raisin in the Sun*.

126) Joseph Asagai explains that Americans "Care for whom they love not enough." What is the significance of this nickname?

127) Analyze the following quote in terms of word choice:

"THAT MONEY IS MADE OUT OF MY FATHER'S FLESH..."

128) Analyze the following excerpt focusing on word choice:

"Three hundred years later the African Prince rose up out of the seas and swept the maiden back across the middle passage over which her ancestors had come... I will show you our mountains and our stars; and give you cool drinks from gourds and teach you the old songs and the ways of our people - and, in time, we will pretend that - (*Very softly*) - you have only been away for a day..."

129) Explain the following excerpt focusing on conflict and structure:

MAMA (*Opening her eyes and looking into WALTER'S*) No. Travis, you stay right here. And you make him understand what you doing, Walter Lee. You teach him good. Like Willy Harris taught you. You show where our five generations done come to. (*WALTER looks from her to the boy, who grins at him innocently*) Go ahead, son— (*She folds her hands and closes her eyes*) Go ahead.

130) How does Hansberry build tension leading to the climax of the plot?

131) How does Hansberry use ambiguity at the play's conclusion?

132) Identify and explain the parallel plot included in *A Raisin in the Sun*. (Hint: It does not really have anything to do with the insurance check.)

133) What does it mean for an actor to give an outstanding performance? Identify the elements that an actor must master to attain excellence. (Think back to the Drama Read-through page.)

EXTENDED RESPONSE

134) Describe the **historical context** of *A Raisin in the Sun*. What was society like when Hansberry first wrote and staged the play? What relevant changes and/or events were occurring? Illustrate your explanations with related details from the play. (ORGANIZING TIP: Choose three important historical context topics and write a body paragraph for each.)

135) **The** *A Raisin in the Sun* really any message about life? Which is the central theme? Decide which theme is the most important to the work (not to you personally) and write an essay justifying your choice. How does Hansberry emphasize this theme above all others?

136) Literary symbols have multiple meanings that are complex or even contradictory. Write an essay analyzing **the insurance check as a symbol**. How does Hansberry establish the symbolic representation and what themes are developed? (TIP: Identify three ideas represented by this symbol and write one paragraph for each.)

137) Explain Hansberry's use of **symbolism** in *A Raisin in the Sun*. What are the key symbols in the play? How are the symbols established and what do they add or accomplish? (TIP: Identify 2 to 3 symbols from the play and write a body paragraph analyzing each.)

138) Literary **symbols** have multiple meanings that are complex or even contradictory. Write an essay analyzing ONE symbol from *A Raisin in the Sun*. How does Hansberry establish the symbolic representation and what does the symbol add or accomplish? (ORGANIZING TIP: Identify three ideas represented by the symbol and write one paragraph for each.)

139) **Character and Point of View**: Explain how Hansberry uses her characters to represent different points of view on life. How do these differing values and motivations develop the drama? (ORGANIZING TIP: You might choose three characters and write a body paragraph focused on the point of view of each.)

140) **Characterization:** Hansberry creates one of the most memorable characters in the history of American theatre: Walter Lee Younger. How does she accomplish this? What methods does Hansberry employ to mold Walter Lee and bring him to life in our imaginations?

141) **Summarize the plot** of *A Raisin in the Sun* by identifying / explaining the main plot events.

EXPOSITION	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
INCITING INCIDENT	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
RISING ACTION	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
CLIMAX	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
FALLING ACTION / RESOLUTION	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

PREVIEW

142) Hansberry chooses every word and phrase with care. How does Hansberry use **word choice** to create mood, add meaning, and give a sense of time and place? Identify at least THREE elements of Hansberry’s word choice in *A Raisin in the Sun* explain how she uses each. (TIP: Write one body paragraph for each of the word choice elements you choose to examine.)

143) **Allusions and references** pervade (show up throughout) *A Raisin in the Sun*. Analyze Hansberry's use of allusions and references. What kinds of connections does she create and what do these connections add?

144) **Minor characters** can have major importance. Analyze how Hansberry uses minor characters in *A Raisin in the Sun*. How do the minor characters impact other literary elements like theme, plot, main characters, structural effects, or point of view? (ORGANIZING TIP: Choose three minor characters and write a body paragraph explaining the value of each.)

145) **Acting and Performance**: What are the elements of an outstanding theatrical performance? Reflect on the mental, physical, interactive, and vocal elements that an actor must master to achieve excellence. Use relevant acting terminology and illustrate your ideas with examples from *A Raisin in the Sun*.

PREVIEW

PREVIEW