

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class. Pd. _____

Act I Study Guide - A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

Quotations—Identify the speaker.

1. "Baby, don't *nothing* happen for you in this world 'less you pay *somebody* off." (Act One, Scene 1)
2. "Man say to his woman: I got me a dream. His woman say: Eat your eggs." (Act One, Scene 1)
3. "Well--I *do*-- all right?--thank everybody . . . and forgive me for ever wanting to be anything at all . . . forgive me, forgive me." (Act One, Scene 1)
4. "There simply is no blasted god--there is only man and it is he who makes miracles!" (Act One, Scene 1)
5. "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!" (Act One, Scene 2)
6. "Once upon a time freedom used to be life--now it's money. . .No--it was always money, Mama. We just didn't know about it." (Act One, Scene 2)

Questions—

Act I, Scene I

7. How does the apartment building itself create problems for the Younger family as they begin their day?
8. Walter and Ruth react differently when Travis asks for money for school. What are Walter and Ruth's attitude about money?
9. How does Walter think that women should treat their men?

10. What are Beneatha's hopes for her future? Why is Walter concerned about Beneatha's plans?
11. What does Mama retrieve when she opens the window? What is unique about this object?

Act I, Scene II

12. What is revealed about Ruth and where she has been? What is she thinking about and why might she be considering such a thing?
13. Asagai arrives, bringing gifts for Beneatha. What gifts does he bring to her?
14. How much is the insurance check worth?
15. How does Walter show his insensitivity regarding the money and the situation at home?
16. How does Mama try to influence Walter at the end of the scene? What does she reveal to him?