

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

● **Applicable drama terms:**

setting (M 101, 159)
plot (M 93, 156,)
theme (M 18, 104, 132, 163)
protagonist (M100, 159)
antagonist (M 100, 159)
round character
flat character
dynamic character
foil
conflict
tragedy
allusion
dialogue (M 104, 161) diction (M127)
irony: dramatic, situational, verbal
symbol (M 103, 129)
personification
tone (M 127, 187)
resolution climax (M 96, 157)

● **Characters:**

● **Dialogue/diction:**

Characters often have discussions that are about more than just what's going on onstage – about bigger themes and ideas. What are some examples?

How do the way characters *speak* tell us things about them? Contrast, say, Walter/Ruth/Mama/Travis/Boo to Beneatha/George/Asagai/Linder.

Through how they walk, act, and speak, what *ideas* do characters represent?

● **Imagery:**

What verbal images do characters give us in Acts 2&3? How can we interpret them?

● **Structure:**

Does the *action* of the play *climax* at any one point?

How does the *narrative* build up to this point(s)? (What happens onstage that creates dramatic *tension*?)

● **Themes** (what the play is *about*, not just what *happens* in it [plot]):

Dreams and “dreams deferred” – what characters have what dreams? What do those dreams tell us about each character? Whose dreams change? Whose dreams stay the same? Whose dreams come true? DO dreams come true in unexpected ways?

“back to the past” – what does “the past” mean in Acts 2&3? To what “past” does each character “go”?

“heritage”/“race pride” – what attitude do various characters have toward their race, and their racial heritage (from Africa and America)?

“freedom” – what does “freedom” mean to different characters?

education – what are different characters’ thoughts about education? Who values what kind of education?

appearance vs. reality – what appearances do characters try to maintain despite reality? DO characters try to use appearance to change reality?

What other themes do you see in the play?

● **Irony:**

What *situational irony* occurs in the play?

What *verbal irony* occurs in the play?