**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 April 5, 2023**

**Today’s Agenda (Day 139)**

1. Homework Check:

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1. Class Activity:

🡪 DISCUSSION: A Raisin in the Sun – cont’d

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HOMEWORK:

* BEGIN: Raisin in the Sun 🡪 ~~Act 1 [Mon, Apr 3];~~ ~~Act 2 [Wed, Apr 5];~~ Act 3 [Fri, Apr 7]; Act 4 [Mon, Apr 10]
* STUDY: Raisin in the Sun Vocabulary Quiz AND Quiz #1 and 2
* **TERM ESSAY #4:** Write a narrative essay telling us about your journey (or your family's) towards the "American Dream" (or equivalent). Are your experiences similar/different from those depicted by the literary works? Ponder the following issues listed below in your narrative essay:

1. While doing so, examine how these literary works relate to the American Dream. Cite evidence from the literary works.
2. Consider if there is one "American Dream" or are there many different ones? Explain. Cite evidence as appropriate.
3. Discuss the literary works' parents' acceptance (or lack thereof) of the American lifestyle; do they support of their children’s choice of lifestyles? Explain. Compare and contrast with YOUR parents' acceptance (or lack thereof) of the American lifestyle. Do they support YOUR choice of lifestyle? Explain.
4. What do these literary works say about the Americans and their dreams? What is YOUR perspective of the contemporary American and their dreams?

* Term 4 Essay to be written in class: **April 18 & 19**

Raisin in the Sun – Vocabulary

[https://www.verbalworkout.com/t/t1606a.htm]

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| bastion | beseechingly | blues | Booker T. Washington | cliche | conspicuously | contract |
| contradictions | convention | coquettishly | credulous | deferred | dejected | deplore |
| disinterested | doggedly | eludes | entrepreneur | enunciate | epitaph | facetious |
| fester | flippancy | fly-by-night | forlorn | furtively | futile | gall |
| graft | groveling | idealists | illiterate | inclined | indictment | indignantly |
| insinuate | Ku Klux Klan | laity | Langston Hughes | Liberia | ludicrous | martyr |
| melodrama | monologue | neurotic | New World | nonplussed | oppress | pantomimes |
| permeate | plaintively | plunder | precise | prejudice | pretense | promenade |
| rapt | raucous | rebuff | reflectively | retrogression | revelation | savor |
| self-righteously | stifle | strident | stupor | subtle | understated | unobtrusively |
| upkeep | utter | vigor | vindicate | wrought |  |  |

REMINDERS:

* RAISIN IN THE SUN PLAY QUIZ #1 [Act 1 – Act 2, Scene 1] 🡪 April 6
* RAISIN IN THE SUN PLAY VOCABULARY QUIZ 🡪 April 10
* RAISIN IN THE SUN PLAY QUIZ #2 [Act 2, Scene 2 - Act 3, Scene 2] 🡪 April 13

**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 NOVEL ACTIVITY**

**A Raisin in The Sun – Lorraine Hansberry**

## PART 1 – Act 1, Scene 1

## Discussion Question 1

## Walter Lee Younger is one of the major characters in this play. His struggle for respect and to provide for his family is one that many men have trouble dealing with. Discuss, in a paragraph, Walter Lee in terms of being an African-American man.

## Discussion Question 2

## As Walter's wife, Ruth is caught between her desire to support him and to maintain her power within the family.  Ruth is the only major character who wasn't born into the Younger family. Discuss, in a couple of paragraphs, her role in the family and relationship to the other characters. Who does she defer to in the family? Who does she command? What does she contribute as a person to family?

## Discussion Question 3

## The author's purpose is often evident in the first few minutes of a play. Identify, in a paragraph, the central problem that the family faces in the play.

## This play is very much about a specific family. Think about what a play about their families would look like. In a paragraph, what would be the central issue in the play?

## Discussion Question 4

## Although the themes of this play are universal, the setting is very specific. It is set in Chicago's Southside neighborhood between 1945 and 1959. Research the history Chicago's Southside neighborhoods in the post-war years. Look at specific aspects of the period, such as segregation and low-income housing. In a paragraph, report out your findings. In a paragraph, discuss how were the roles of people changing in the country, especially women and African-Americans? What were the causes of these changes? What effect might these changes have on the specific characters in the play?

## PART 1 – Act 1, Scene 2

## Discussion Question 5

## Through the character of Beneatha, Hansberry explores the yearning of African-Americans to rediscover their lost heritage.  Review the part of the scene that takes place between Beneatha and Joseph. Why is Beneatha so excited to receive the records of African music and African clothing? What does it mean when Joseph chides her for her "mutilated" hair?

## Why do people find it so important to know where they came from? Share your feelings about your own heritage and what it means to you.

## Discussion Question 6

## Poverty is a major theme in this play. All of the Younger family's dreams, Beneatha's education, Ruth's home, Walter Lee's future, depend on money that seems just out of reach.

## Discuss the difficulty the Youngers are having making ends meet. Can you think of ways that the Youngers might increase their income or economize? Remember that at this time, the image of the American family was that the father provided all the money needed to run a household. Comment on how Walter Lee's inability to do that might impact him as a character.

## In a paragraph, discuss the definitions of poverty, working class, and middle class. What constitutes poverty in the United States?

## Discussion Question 7

## Lena or "Mama" Younger represents the only connection the Younger family has with their history. Her strong sense of morality and religion anchor the play and her objective of moving the family to a better home is the driving action of the play.  Discuss the character of Mama. What are her strongest objectives? What is her function in the family? Discuss her opinions on morality and religion. How do those opinions influence her children?

## Read through the scene between Mama and Big Walter as they move into the apartment for the first time. Discuss how Mama is viewed by the other characters. What does Beneatha think about her mother? How does Walter Lee view her? Choose a single word to describe your perspective on Mama during this particular scene.

## Discussion Question 8

## Like Walter Lee, Beneatha dreams of bettering her life by creating a career for herself. Her story also shows the yearning of many African-Americans to re-connect with their African roots. Discuss the character traits of Beneatha Younger. What are her most striking characteristics? What is her main objective in the play? How does she try to accomplish her aims? Remember that Beneatha is the only adult in the family who doesn't seem to hold a job. What does Beneatha contribute to the family? Is she being selfish when she expects Mama to pay her tuition? Is the tuition an investment in the family or in Beneatha alone?

## In a paragraph, discuss Beneatha's goal to become a doctor. How realistic was that goal, given the time and place of the play? What obstacles would she have faced? Would she have faced more difficulty as an African-American or as a woman in a career which was at the time usually reserved for white men? Share your opinions on Beneatha's ability to become a doctor, given her character.