

A raisin in the sun: lena younger (mama)



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

A Raisin in the Sun Lena Younger (Mama) Lena Younger (Mama) had dreams of buying a house with her husband and having a garden of her own; "...you should know all the dreams I had 'bout buying that house and fixing it up and making a little garden in the back-And didn't none of it happen," (1782). Mama wants to her family to remain respectful of one another and of her and wants the insurance money from her husband's death used in a way to help keep the family together; "I don't 'low no yellin' in this house, Walter Lee, and you know it. There ain't going to be no investing in no liquor stores," and "[To Walter] ain't nobody said you wasn't grown.

But you still in my house and my presence. And as long as you are—you you'll talk to your wife civil," (1794). Mama also wants to preserve the memory of her husband by reminding Walter of his father's character, "[To Walter] 'I'm waiting to hear how you be your father's son. Be the man he was...and I'm waiting to hear you talk like him and say we a people who give children life, not who destroys them. I'm waiting to see you stand up like your daddy and say we done give up one baby to poverty and that we ain't going to give up nary another one..." [To Walter] "...you are a disgrace to your father's memory" (1796).

Mama wants Walter to carry forth the values of his father. In the end Mama is happy because Walter comes to understand why it is important to maintain the memory and values of his father. Walter understands that he needs to pass on these values to his son as he explain to the real estate man that they are going to move into their house; "...we are proud and that is it—this is my son, who makes the sixth generation of our family in this country,

and that we have all thought about your offer and we have decided to move into our house because my father—my father—he earned it,” (1829).

This ending shows how Mama knew the family had challenges of racism to face in their new neighborhood, but that they had to stay strong together as a family to battle it as they tried to gain a better life of living for themselves. Walter Lee Younger (son) Walter Lee has dreams to provide a better life for his family. He is frustrated with not being able to provide as he desires; “ I’m thirty-five years old; I been married eleven years and I got a boy who sleeps in the living room—and all I got to give him is stories about how rich white people are...” (1777).

Walter Lee wants to use the insurance money to become part owner in a liquor store, but Mama wants to use the money as down payment on a house and Walter Lee feels his dreams are destroyed; “ So you butchered up a dream of mine—you—who always talking ‘ bout your children’s dreams...” (1806). Walter decides to right the wrong of having the money stolen from him and to not be one of the “ taken” by deciding to take the money offered to the family to not move into the white neighborhood. That white man is going to walk in that door able to write checks for more money than we ever had,” (1826). In the end, Walter is humbled when his mother wants him to explain why he is willing to accept the pay off money from the whites who don’t want them to move in their neighborhood. He realizes he must humble himself to teach his son the values his father taught him when his mother says, “...you make him understand what you are doing, Walter Lee. You teach him good.

Like Willy Harris taught you. You show where our five generations done come to. Go ahead, son-," (1828). This ending demonstrates how black people, and especially black men struggle to maintain values and morals in their families as they deal not only with racism, but defeating ways and attitudes of other blacks, like Willy Harris. Beneatha Younger (sister) Beneatha has dreams of becoming a doctor and faces the challenges of meeting the financial costs of medical school.

She feels her brother does not support her dream to become a doctor; "What do you want from me, Brother –that I quit school or just drop dead, which," (1778). Beneatha also wants does not want to marry for money; "No I would not marry him [her rich friend George] if all I felt for him was what I feel now," (1784). She wants to focus on becoming a doctor and wait on marriage; "I'm going to be a doctor. I'm not worried about who I'm going to marry yet—if I ever get married," (1785).

In the ending, Beneatha has a change of heart about marriage because she feels Asagai understands her and she is marveled by the idea of practicing medicine in Africa; "Mama, Asagai—asked me to marry him today and go to Africa-...To go to Africa, Mama—be a doctor in Africa," (1829). This ending for Beneatha's character demonstrates how she feels reenergized thinking about being a doctor in Africa as opposed to America where she would experience less racism in her profession and as a woman.