

A Raisin in the Sun by
Lorraine Hansberry.
Analysis of Character
of Walter Lee Yo...

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Walter Lee Younger, sometimes called Brother, is thirty-five years old. He is obsessive, loving, determined, and has full energy dreams. He is African American. He is the only son of his mother, and his father had died. He has one younger sister. He is married and is a disobedient husband but a loving father. He is a desperate man standing on a poverty line. He is frustrated from his current position in life and lacks the ability of good judgment due to this frustration. His position in life can be considered a symbol of every Black man who is struggling in life. He wishes that his wife also wear pearls and his family have all the things that are required to spend a luxurious life. He is married since 11 years and has one son, his son sleeps in the living room, and he is much hearted from this. He quarreled with his mother, sister, and wife due to this frustration and disappointment from his life. Ruth (his wife) said, "Mama, something is happening between Walter and me. I don't know what it is – but he needs something – something I can't give him anymore" (1. 1. 187). This quote of Ruth shows that Walter was unhappy from his life. He wants to become rich quickly. Lena (Mama) said to Walter, "you are not satisfied or proud of nothing [your dad and I] done" (1. 2. 231). Lena is hearted because she and her husband worked hard for their children, and Walter did not feel proud of his family status. He was ashamed of his lifestyle and social class. He is searching for such a business which will make him rich quickly. He has a business idea, and he thinks that this business idea will solve all his economic and social problems. Walter wants for his family everything best, and he thinks that a liquor store business will provide him huge money, and through this money, he will boost his family from the

poverty line. "I want so many things that they are driving me kind of crazy... Mama - look at me" (1. 2. 222). This quote shows that how much Walter is ambitious. He wants to become something in his life. He is working as a chauffeur for a rich white man. He is totally dissatisfied from his boss. He wants to start his own business. He planned to start the business of liquor store with his friend. He was going to do with so with the insurance money that his family was going to get because of his father's death. His family members were against his business idea. His mama considers the sinful to sell the liquor. Due to this his mama did not give all the money to him. She makes a down payment for a house in his white neighborhood. And the remaining money gave him to invest in business. She wants to remove the disparity of his son. She had believed that he will put some money for his younger sister's study but he did not do this, he put all the money in business with his friend. Now he is very happy. He thinks that all his problems will be finished. But unfortunately it's not happened. Things are not going too smooth. His friend ran away with all money and he realized his mistake. His neighborhood Mr. Linder who tried that they do not move in their house offered a payment to them. That's why Walter do not like him and not accept his offer. But when he had loss in his business he ready to accept this offer. This is very ashamed for him. In the end he is redeemed when he refuses the offer of Mr. Linder and stands with his family. He has known that he is at mistake. He understands that it's not possible to become rich quickly. Now he starts to respect his mother, wife and his sister. Poverty and racism can distress the people and they stands against those people to whom they love most. Same is the case with Walter Lee Younger. He is

disappointed with his life and he is much frustrated and always quarreled with their loved ones. Walter Lee Younger was the hero and opponent player as well of this play. He was playing opponent role when he quarreled with his family members but at the end he respects their family members and his wish of becoming rich no longer remains (Hansberry) References Hansberry, Lorraine. "A Raisin in the Sun. 1959." New York: Vintage (1994).