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**Auszug aus:**

*Paket: "A Raisin in the Sun" von Lorraine Hansberry*

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<b>Thema:</b>	<b>Lorraine Hansberry <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> – Continuous Interpretation</b>
<b>Bestellnummer:</b>	<b>30734</b>
<b>Kurzvorstellung des Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> belongs to the classic American plays. It deals with a black family in the 1950s trying to improve their living conditions. The ambiguity of hope and resignation is underlining the play.</li> <li>• On the one hand, the play describes their financial, social and personal problems. On the other hand, it shows the range of possibilities to deal with unfulfilled expectations, hope and despair.</li> </ul>
<b>Übersicht über die Teile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Die Interpretation gliedert das Stück in Sinnabschnitte und erläutert und interpretiert diese ausführlich.</li> </ul>
<b>Information zum Dokument</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ca. 4,5 Seiten, Größe ca. 66,5 KByte</li> </ul>
<b>SCHOOL-SCOUT – schnelle Hilfe per E-Mail</b>	<p>SCHOOL-SCOUT ♦ Der persönliche Schulservice          Internet: <a href="http://www.School-Scout.de">http://www.School-Scout.de</a>          E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@School-Scout.de">info@School-Scout.de</a></p>

## **Lorraine Hansberry *A Raisin in the Sun* – Continuous Interpretation**

*A Raisin in the Sun* is a play by Lorraine Hansberry, that was first staged in 1958. The American playwright lived from 1930 to 1965. Her own personal experience has had great influence on the plot of the play. Just like the Younger family in the play, her own family moved into a white neighbourhood in Chicago when she was a child. The title evokes the image of the sun as a symbol of hope and future but a raisin, a dark shadow or stain devalues its power. Thus, hope is irrecoverably damaged. This ambiguous image of hope and resignation is underlying the play and the symbol of sunlight is mentioned several times (p.94; 143).

The play deals with the Youngers, a black family living in Chicago “sometime between World War II and the present” (p.22)<sup>1</sup> which means between 1945 and the late 1950’s when the play had been staged for the first time. Ruth and her husband Walter Lee, their son Travis, Walter’s sister Beneatha and his mother Lena are living together. A few months earlier Lena’s husband had died and the family is awaiting money from his life insurance. The check about 10.000 Dollars and what they will do with the money covers majority of their conversations. The money resembles hope and future for the family that has lost both, hope and prospect during the years. They are tired of living under simplest conditions in a small apartment without any private room. Ruth calls their home a “rat trap” (p.44). This expression hints at the apartment’s smallness as well as her feeling of being imprisoned. At the beginning of the play, their home is described as dark and weary. Once they happily moved in, full of dreams and hopes for the future, but now the formerly new furniture is used and widely damaged. Once it was “selected with care and love and even hope” (p.23) and “arranged with taste and pride” (p.23) but they do not remember these times anymore. This section metaphorically describes how the hopes and dreams of the Younger family got damaged throughout the years. There is still a rest to be seen but they are too tired to hope anymore. Although they are all tired and desperate, they are a loving family, just their emotions are buried under financial problems and the everyday quarrelling.

They all handle this situation differently. Ruth has buried all her expectations and tries to make the best out of it. She copes with the everyday life and cares for her family. She wants her son to look proper and to get educated and forbids him to work at the supermarket because he is supposed to have more possibilities in life. Unlike her husband, she strongly tries to keep the money together. Walter Lee tends to having business ideas and wants to invest money in a new liquor store of his own. He wants to improve their situation and is rather frank in dealing with money. Ruth dislikes his friends and ideas and probably fears that he might lose their money. They both work for white families as servants and therefore probably feel humiliated. Walter is a chauffeur and Ruth works at a private household and her employers do not even allow her to take a day off when she is sick (p.42). Beneatha is the only member of the family attending university. She is studying to be a doctor and shows that she is better educated than the rest of the family. For example, she speaks more sophisticated while the others have a black accent. Moreover, she is an emancipated woman and decides for herself what is best for her. She goes out with two men and does not want to bind herself to one of them. Especially Walter does not support Beneatha’s ideas because he has a rather conservative image of women: “We one group of men tied to a race of women with small minds” (p.35). He disrespects them and seems to regard the idea of a girl being a doctor as awkward.

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<sup>1</sup> Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (New York: Vintage Books). All following quotations are taken from this edition.



<b>Thema:</b>	<b>Lorraine Hansberry <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> – Characterisations</b>
<b>TMD: 30722</b>	
<b>Kurzvorstellung des Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Raisin in the Sun belongs to the classic American plays. It deals with a black family in the 1950s trying to improve their living conditions. The ambiguity of hope and resignation is underlying the play.</li> <li>• The main characters in <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> are the members of the Younger family. Ruth, Walter, Beneatha and Lena are complex characters with different expectations and attitudes.</li> </ul>
<b>Übersicht über die Teile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Die Hauptcharaktere des Stücks – Lena, Walter, Ruth und Beneatha – werden im Folgenden beschrieben und analysiert.</li> </ul>
<b>Information zum Dokument</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ca. 5,5 Seiten, Größe ca. 72,5 KByte</li> </ul>
<b>SCHOOL-SCOUT – schnelle Hilfe per E-Mail</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL-SCOUT ♦ Der persönliche Schulservice  Internet: <a href="http://www.School-Scout.de">http://www.School-Scout.de</a>  E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@School-Scout.de">info@School-Scout.de</a></p>

## Lorraine Hansberry *A Raisin in the Sun* – Characterisations

**Lena** is the oldest member of the family. She is a strong woman in her early sixties and “of a certain grace and beauty [... that] takes a while to notice” (p.39)<sup>1</sup>. Despite her age and her fully white hair she is a beautiful woman with open and interested eyes. She “has adjusted to many things in life and overcome many more” (p.39) but these experiences have strengthened her facial expression instead of leaving visible marks. Her careless and strongly accented speech does not conform to her noble impression. As a proud woman she suffers from the loss of her husband and the poor living conditions. Descending “from five generations of people who was slaves and sharecroppers” (p.143), freedom is the most valuable good to her. When Walter wants to accept Lindner’s offer she thinks he is selling their pride: “We ain’t never been that poor. We ain’t never been that – dead inside” (p.143).

Lena’s husband died probably a few months ago and she is waiting for money from his life insurance. While the whole family thinks about what to do with the money she does not want to talk about it. To her “it ain’t Christian” (p.41) to talk about money and in this case it is even more heathen because the money is paying Walter Lee senior’s death. When the check arrives she asks Ruth to put it away and admits that she thought about giving it away (p.96). Although receiving 10.000 Dollars for her husband’s death seems to be eerie she wants to use the money to improve her family’s life. To her it is an incredible sum which she partly wants to spend on Beneatha’s schooling to ensure her future. Besides, she thinks about fulfilling herself a dream. When she moved in the apartment with Walter senior they did not plan to stay for long. They were “going to set away, little by little, [...] and buy a little place out in Morgan Park” (p.44). Now as she has the money to buy a house she wants to fulfil the dream she and her husband shared. Thus, she can be sure Walter senior would have approved her decision.

Lena is a religious and conservative woman. Although they are poor she donates money “at church for the missionary work” (p.57) in Africa. As a strongly believing person she is shocked of her daughter swearing “for Christ’s sake” (p.46) and states clearly that she does not want her to recite “the scriptures in vain” (p.46). She cannot handle her daughter criticising religion and for that matter even slaps her to stop uttering her atheistic opinion. She disapproves how their living conditions and the modern times affect the religious attitude of her family. Ruth wants to abort her child which Lena is trying to prevent. By exaggerated optimism she wants to evoke anticipation for another child: “Travis ought to have a sister” (p.56). Her optimism borders naivety which is seen in her decision to buy a house in a white area. She does not see a problem in moving to Clybourne Park and explains her decision by the high prices for houses in black areas (p.93). According to her, her family overestimates the value of money.

She is a loving and caring mother who just wants the best for her family. She regards herself as mother of the family and disapproves how Ruth raises her son. She tries to interfere in his education and wants to patronize not only her grandson but her daughter-in-law and her grown-up children as well. Her aim is to keep the family together. She cannot stand Walter and Beneatha quarrelling and eventually buys a house in order to improve the atmosphere within the family as well as the living conditions: “I just seen my family falling apart to-

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<sup>1</sup> Lorraine Hansberry , *A Raisin in the Sun* (New York: Vintage Books). All following quotations are taken from this edition.



<b>Titel:</b>	<b>Klausur mit Erwartungshorizont</b> <b><i>Lorraine Hansberry - A Raisin in the Sun</i></b>
<b>Bestellnummer:</b>	<b>44736</b>
<b>Kurzvorstellung:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dieses Material bietet eine veränderbare Klausur, die sich mit dem Theaterstück „A Raisin in the Sun“ von Lorraine Hansberry beschäftigt. Hierbei steht der Inhalt, Form und das Formulieren einer eigenen Stellungnahme im Vordergrund.</li><li>• Präsentiert werden die Aufgabenstellung sowie eine Musterlösung, die zusätzlich durch eingefügte Kommentare erläutert wird.</li><li>• Der ausführliche Erwartungshorizont macht die Korrektur transparenter und einfacher und gibt den Schüler/innen zusätzlich eine ausführliche Rückmeldung.</li></ul>
<b>Inhaltsübersicht:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arbeitsblatt mit Aufgabenstellung einer möglichen Klausur</li><li>• Musterlösung mit Zwischenüberschriften</li><li>• Hilfe zum richtigen Verständnis der Aufgabenstellung</li><li>• Erwartungshorizont mit Bewertungsschlüssel</li></ul>
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## Musterlösung

### Aufgabe 1: Why and how does Walter Younger want to get rich?

*Zunächst wird eine kurze Zusammenfassung der zentralen inhaltlichen Merkmale des Stückes verlangt. Der/die Schüler/in sollte dabei logisch den Handlungsgang wiedergeben und die Protagonisten benennen. Es sollte das Ende und die Entwicklung von Walter Younger aufgezeigt werden.*

### **Musterlösung zu Aufgabe 1:**

Walter Younger is a young African-American. He is married to Ruth and even has a child. Since he does not earn enough money, he, his wife and his child live together with Walter's mother and his siblings. They live in a small and rundown apartment in the South Side of Chicago, which is a slum. The apartment only has two bedrooms and one bathroom. It is too small for all of them but they do not have any other option.

Walter cannot stand that anymore. He does not want to be poor. He wants to live in his own apartment and to be able to buy Ruth jewelry. Thus, Walter is very frustrated and sad. He really thinks that money is going to make him happy because then he would be respected. Furthermore, he as a man would be able to take care for his own family and for his mother, which he thinks is his responsibility after his father's death.

His idea of getting rich and being successful is based on the new meaning of the *American Dream* in the post-war American society. The new American Dream is interpreted as pursuit of happiness through money, success and wealth.

Walter wants to open a liquor store. Even though he knows that selling alcohol is not right and that this will not make his mother happy, he is determined. When his mother gets a check from her husband's life insurance, Walter believes that his and his family's life is going to change.

His mother, Lena Younger, gives a large part of the money to him but he scoots with the money. Even though his siblings are angry with Walter, his mother supports him more than ever in order to make him feel welcome. After that, Walter starts realizing that money does not mean everything. He realizes that happiness is not bound to money or wealth. He even refuses the money offered by Mr. Lindner. Mr. Lindner does not want the African-American family in his neighborhood and therefore he offers them money in order to get rid of them. Walter neither takes the money nor does he move into Mr. Lindner's neighborhood.

At the end of the play, he proves his mother and the rest of the family that he is proud and grown up.

### Aufgabe 2: Why does Lorraine Hansberry make use of symbolism in "A Raisin in the Sun"?

### **Musterlösung zu Aufgabe 2:**

*Der / die Schüler/in soll in dieser Aufgabe die Funktion von Symbolen und Metaphern im Stück darlegen. Der / die Schüler/in kann sich ein Beispiel aus dem Stück aussuchen, um daran bestimmte Merkmale zu erarbeiten.*



<b>Thema:</b>	<b>Portfolio Abiturfragen: Lorraine Hansberry „A Raisin in the Sun“ – alles, was man zum Abitur braucht</b>
<b>Bestellnummer:</b>	<b>44734</b>
<b>Kurzvorstellung des Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Die Analyse und Interpretation von Hansberrys Theaterstück „A Raisin in the Sun“ ist ein zentraler Gegenstandsbereich des Abiturs im Fach Englisch im Grundkursbereich. Dieses Material stellt wesentliche Problemfragen zusammen und liefert dazu stichwortartig das Kernwissen.</li> <li>• Die Übersicht erhebt nicht den Anspruch auf Vollständigkeit der Qualifikationen und Wissens Elemente – es geht eher um Orientierungshilfen. Im konkreten Alltagsgebrauch kann es leicht angepasst werden.</li> <li>• Die Antworten orientieren sich am FSS-Modell (5-Satz-Statement), gehen hier aber nicht methodisch so streng vor – es reicht, wenn zu jeder Frage einige Schlüsselwörter notiert werden.</li> </ul>
<b>Übersicht über die Teile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zu diesem Material</li> <li>• Arbeitsblatt für die Schüler</li> <li>• Ausgefülltes Blatt für die Hand des Lehrers</li> </ul>
<b>Information zum Dokument</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ca. 7 Seiten, Größe ca. 300 Kbyte</li> </ul>

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## Portfolio Englisch - Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

Mit Hilfe der folgenden Übersicht kannst du „checken“, was du schon weißt und kannst und was noch geklärt werden sollte.

1. Geh die Punkte einfach einmal durch. Wenn dir spontan etwas dazu einfällt, notiere es dir auf diesem Arbeitsblatt oder - mit Angabe der Nummer - separat auf einem Blatt.
2. Wenn dir eine Frage unklar erscheint oder du überhaupt keine Ahnung hast, versieh sie einfach mit einem Minus-Zeichen. Auf diese Punkte gehen wir nachher speziell ein.
3. Wenn du etwas vermisst, was zur Liste dazugehört, füge es einfach hinzu



### Scope: General information

1. *What is Lorraine Hansberry's play about?*
2. *What does the title of Lorraine Hansberry's play refer to?*
3. *Why is the play still relevant today?*
4. *When was "A Raisin in the Sun" written and published?*

### Scope: Structure of the play

5. *What is specific about the structure of the play?*
6. *What is special about the style and language in the play?*
7. *Why is 'A Raisin in the Sun' a modern play?*

### Scope: Character constellation

8. *Characterize Mama Younger!*
9. *What kind of relationship do Beneatha and Asagai have?*
10. *What kind of character constellation do we have in the play?*

### Scope: Literary theory

11. *What is a drama?*
12. *Name some other works by Lorraine Hansberry.*
13. *Give some basic information about Lorraine Hansberry's life.*
14. *What does Standard English mean?*

### Scope: Thematic focus

15. *What does Hansberry think about the American Dream?*
16. *How different are Joseph Asagai and George Murchison?*
17. *Why does Walter want to open a liquor store?*
18. *Whose dream comes to fulfillment at the end?*



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