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Raisin in the sun act 2 scene 2 pdf

LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in A Raisin in the Sun, which you can use to track the themes throughout your work. Race, discrimination and assimilation [Y] our dad will do a . . . transaction that will change our lives. . . . You just name it, son . . . and I give you the world! See Key Quotes explained on a Friday night a few weeks later, Beneatha and George return from a date. The Younger's apartment is full of moving boxes. George wants to kiss Beneatha, but she doesn't want to kiss. Rather, she wants to engage George in a conversation about the plight of African Americans. It seems George wants to marry a nice . . . Simple... sophisticated girl. Mom comes in when Beneatha kicks him out. Mom asks if she had a good time with George, and Beneatha tells her that George is a fool. Mom replies: You better not waste your time without fools. Beneatha appreciates her mother's support. Mrs. Johnson—de Youngers' neighbor—visit. Mama and Ruth offer her food and drink, and she's happy to accept. She has come to visit to tell of a black family that has been bombed out of their home in a white area. She is generally insensitive and unable to speak in a civilian way. She predicts that the younger ones will also be scared out of the all-white neighborhood as they move in and insult much of the family by calling them a proud-acting bunch of colored folks. She then quotes Booker T. Washington, a famous African-American thinker and assimilationist. A frustrated and aggrieved mother retaliates by calling him a fool. Mrs. Johnson is leaving the apartment. Walter's boss calls and tells Ruth Walter hasn't worked in three days. Walter explains that he has walked all day (often far into the country) and drunk all night (in a bar with a jazz duo that he loves). He says he feels depressed, heartbroken, and useless as the man in the family. He feels his job is no better than a slave job. Mom feels guilty for his misfortune and tells him that she has never done anything to hurt her children. She gives him the remaining \$6,500 of insurance money, telling him to deposit \$3,000 for Beneatha's training and to keep the last \$3,500. With this money, Mama says, Walter should be-and should act as he has become- the head of the family. Walter suddenly becomes more confident and energized. He talks to Travis about his plans, saying he will make a transaction that will make them rich. Walter's excitement builds as he describes his dream of their future houses and cars, as well as Travis' potential college education. Analysis In Beneatha and George's conversation, Hansberry reveals two values of education. Beneatha believes in education as a way of understanding and self-renewal, while George sees education as a way to get a good job. The difference in their approach to education reveals a deeper difference between one of idealism versus pragmatism. Beneatha believes that society must change through self-awareness and thus through consciousness and celebration of its heritage. George and his family, however, believe that they should become rich and perhaps achieve respect through their economic status, which requires a certain degree of assimilation in the dominant, white culture. Although George's wealth and bears impress Mama at first, she eventually shares Beneatha's point of view. In fact, in the episode with Mrs. Johnson, it becomes clear that Mama agrees with Beneatha much more than you would expect. This scene portrays both George Murchison and Booker T. Washington as assimilationists, and mom refers to them both as fools. While Mama calls George a fool only in response to Beneatha's remark, her branding of Booker T. Washington with such an insult has profound historical and cultural implications. Washington, historically a hero to many in the black community, preached assimilation in mainstream America as the primary target of African Americans. Although he gained great sensiment in the first half of the twentieth century, public opinion had turned against him in the late 1950s. Many African-Americans had begun to reject the ideals of assimilation, believing at this time that mainstream America would always mean white America and that assimilation into this culture would always mean degrading themselves to fit white society's perceptions of how blacks should be and act. So these African Americans sought an independent identity that would enable them to embrace and express their heritage and culture. The scene concludes with Walter's description to Travis of his materialistic fantasy of the future—Walter still wants to be part of the culture that excludes him. He wants to get rich if being rich is the solution to his family's problems. Most of all, he wants his son to have a better life than he has had and wants to give him the education he deserves. His desire for Travis seems selfish too; he desperately wants to feel like a man, and he believes that Travis' success would reflect on his own success as the man in the house. Chapter 1-2 2-1 2-2 2-3 Scene two takes place on a Friday night a few weeks later. George and Beneatha have returned from a date, and he's trying to kiss her, but she's not interested. Mama walks in on them and says hello to George before he leaves. When he's gone, Beneatha admits that she didn't have a good time with George because of his misogynistic views on women. Mama says she understands, and Beneatha appreciates the support. A neighbor, Mrs. Johnson, comes to the door, and she pats Ruth's stomach when she comes in, showing that Ruth is still pregnant. Mrs. Johnson says she's happy for the family that they're moving out. Mom tells Ruth to bring Mrs. Johnson some pie, and although she says she can only stay a minute, she happily accepts the food. Mrs. Johnson talks about how she read in that some colored people had been bombed nearby. Mama knows Mrs. Johnson is trying to scare them, but she offers her some coffee after she's done with the pie. Beneatha walks by and Mrs. Johnson asks her about the school. Mrs. Johnson gives a lot of backhanded compliments where she seems to be saying nice things about the younger family, but then she follows it with something nasty. Finally, Mrs. Johnson leaves, and then the phone rings. Ruth answers and speaks to Mrs. Arnold, who is Walter's boss. She says Walter's lying down because he's been sick. Mrs. Arnold lets Ruth know that if Walter doesn't come to work the next day, he's fired. Walter comes out, and Ruth is shocked to hear he hasn't been at work for three days. Mom asks where he's been. Walter tells her he's just been driving or walking around. Usually he ends up at Green Hat, which is a bar. Mama hates to see her son depressed and makes a decision about the money. She tells Walter that she put thirty-five hundred dollars down on the house, leaving another sixty-five hundred. She wants him to take three thousand of it and put it in the bank for Beneatha's medical school, but he can take the other thirty-five hundred and do whatever he wants with it. She says he's the head of the family, and he can decide. Travis goes in, and Walter's in a much better mood. He asks his son what he wants to be when he grows up, and Travis says a bus driver. His father encourages him to dream bigger. Walter tells me that in a few years, he'll have an office downtown. He will make a transaction that will change their lives, and one day people will wait for him and drive him around instead of how it has been. Walter is brave of the possible reality of making his dream come true. He has regained his trust and manhood with the possession of this large sum of money. He wants to make a difference in his family's life. Chapter 1-2 2-1 2-2 2-3 Act Two, Scene Two Beneatha and George returns from another date. George wants to kiss, but Beneatha wants to discuss social issues. George says there's no point in such a political mumbo-jumbo. Beneatha is not impressed. Lena returns with groceries and offers Beneatha useful advice. Ruth walks in just before Mrs. Johnson, a neighbor, comes by. She shares some recent neighborhood news about some white Americans bombing African Americans out of their houses. She's obviously staying her welcome... but not before she mooches some coffee and snacks from Youngers.Mrs. Arnold, Walter's employer, calls and asks about his absence in the last three days. This is news to Ruth and Lena. Walter proudly tells me that he has been driving around while playing hooky with Willy.Lena has a heart-to-heart chat with her son. She apologizes if she has ever done him wrong and confirms her faith in him. To put her money where her mouth is, she's handing over an envelope with \$6,500. She leads Walter to reserve \$ schooling, and the rest to be stored in a checking account under Walter's name. Shocked, Walter in turn has a heart to heart with his own son, sharing the vision he has for seven years: a world where the business transaction he's about to do will have enabled a higher standard of living, one where Travis can choose to be what he wants to be. Yay, the American dream! Join today and never see them again. By entering your email address, you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and verify that you are over 13 years of age. 13.

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