

Lena Younger

Mama Younger is a strong and proud woman. She is defined by her role as a mother (is she called Mama Younger more often than Lena). She is also old-fashioned and religious.

1. Can you find examples of this from the play?
2. What do you think of Mama? How does she interact with each of the characters?
3. What does her plant represent? How does the symbol of her plant evolve over the course of the play?

Look at activity 2 for help.

1. Her encounter with Beneatha when she slaps her and says there is still god in this house then again when asked about the check early in the morning she says its not christian. Her mother side comes out when making Travis's bed after he has gone to school basically always cleaning up after him. Those are just off the top of my head

2. I think Mama is a very strong willed woman she has a good heart and cares for those she loves and are closest to her, her ability you be selfless with the money and buy a house putting the family first shows the kind of person she is. Even though she doesn't agree with Walters ideas of buy a alcohol store she keeps trying to bring out the best in him and tries to get him to make the right decisions, this is clear when even after he lost the money she gets him to rise to the challenge and make the decision for the family when Lidner comes, he does rise to the occasion as we find out.

3. The plant is a metaphor for the Younger family and it may also be a symbol of Walter. Like the family the plants starts out in a bad shape, down and out as they would say. But as the play moves on and so does the plant with some love and caring both the family and the plant move away from their disagreements and problems of race and struggle, they become strong together as one as a family.

THE PLANT IS A SYMBOL OF HOPE, LOVE AND NURTURING.

EVEN THOUGH THE PLANT DOES NOT GET MUCH SUNSHINE MAMA STILL LOVES AND NURTURES IT IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE EVEN IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES