

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

In keeping with the title of the course, how do you think the play fits in with the topic of colonial and postcolonial literature? Use quotes from the play to illustrate your point.

I think A Raisin in the Sun fits in with colonial and post-colonial literature because Walter still looks down upon women. He just feels that a woman's duty is to uplift a man. Hansberry L p19 "that is what is wrong with coloured women....don't understand about building their men up 'em feel like they somebody. "why don't the men build up women too? Walter even believes women are small minded. Men still believe there are jobs that women cannot do. It's a belief that a woman should get married. Hansberry L pg. 32 "....but first I am going to be a doctor, and George, for one, still thinks that's pretty funny. "The people of Clybourne Park are not welcoming to people who don't belong to their race. Hansberry L pg. 90"....rightly or wrongly, as I say, that for the happiness of all concerned that our Negro families are happier when they live in their own area communities "the residents are willing to pay back three times what was paid by Mama for the house just to keep them out of Clybourne Park.

I would also argue that the conversation between George, Ruth and Beneatha is a clear indication of post-colonial effects. Beneatha was saying that "I hate assimilationist Negroes!" (p60), and then she explained to Ruth that "it means someone who is willing to give up his own culture and submerge himself completely in the dominant, and in this case, oppressive, culture!"(p60). Beneatha wants to become a doctor, something that would not have been possible in her African context. She dreams of the idea becoming a doctor, making use of the advantages from the "oppressive culture". Yet she is looking for her identity in her African heritage. My argument would be that due to post-colonialism we are dealing with a confused teenager, Beneatha, who is unsure about her identity.

That is completely true. I think you could even relate this idea to other set works in this course. Do you think that this is also a problem many people face in South Africa today?