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assignment cover

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ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 02

UNISA P.2050





Eng2603 Assignment 2  
Semester: one 2018  
Unique number: 809359  
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine  
Hansberry.

The younger family is a big family living in a small apartment, that doesn't have enough space to contain them. Poverty is their main struggle. The arrival of the insurance check that Lena, Walter and Beneatha's mother, receives upon her husband's death marks an opportunity to escape from poverty for each member of the family. In such a way that each member has a different idea on how the check should be used. And on what it should be used for.

The <sup>different</sup> ~~different~~ ideas that each member of the Younger family has for the insurance check becomes a root cause of the family's tension. The tension surfaces the morning before the insurance check arrives. The first tension is between Ruth and Walter. Walter is Lena's older son, who is married to Ruth and



the have a son called Travis, who is ten years old. Walter is planning to use the insurance check to start a liquor business with Bobo and Willy. The previous night Walter stayed up till late discussing the idea of the liquor business with one of the investors in the business, Willy. Their meeting took place in the younger's livingroom, which is also used by Travis as a bedroom at night. Because of this meeting Travis ended up going to bed late. insufficient space is another issue around this family, But the main tension occurs upon the <sup>✓</sup>arrival of the insurance check.

On Friday morning Walter and Ruth are the first one to get into an argument about the check. Walter comes back from the bathroom and asks Ruth if she knows what he was thinking about while in the bathroom. Although Ruth seem to be uninterested to what Walter has to say, he carries on and tell her that he thought of what Willy and <sup>✓</sup>him discussed about the other night.



Ruth tries to avoid listening to the story by folding her head on her arm over the table to show her husband that she is not interested in what he has to tell her. But Walter is very persistent he walks towards her and ask if she is not tired of everything especially their current lifestyle. He carries on and say "A man needs a woman to back him up." Walter further his conversation by asking Ruth to sit with his mother and convince her to invest in his liquor business. Walter doesn't even notice how his wife is annoyed by the who conversation, he insists on the issue until Ruth asked him to leave him alone and eat his egg. This shows how problematic the issue of insurance check has become to the couple. They can't have a normal morning without arguing about the check. Another tension is between Beneatha and Walter. Beneatha walks in as the couple argue that same morning. Beneatha is Walter's younger sister whose in her twenties and is in college.



Beneatha wishes to become a doctor as a result she has planned to use the insurance check to further her studies in medison. When Beneatha enters the room, her brother asks her how school ~~was~~<sup>coming</sup>, she answers by saying lovely. lovely. After that he asks if she has made up her mind and everything. Walter's deceptively simple inquiry about how Beneatha's studies are going in school leads to an argument. Walter accuses Beneatha of being ungrateful for the sacrifices the family has made for her to go to collage. He reveals his thought about her sister to study to be a nurse or just get married and be quiet. The argument between them signifies a fierce struggle for the survival of each individual's dreams. Both their dreams rely upon their father's life insurance check. The argument ends with both siblings admitting that the insurance money belongs to Lena (Mama) and it is up to her to decide how it will be spent. However, the scales are weighed against Walter because his mother



is not likely to support the idea of the liquor store. Mama disapproves of Walter's business plan because she disapproves of selling liquor. Both Bertha and Walter battle with Mama's conservative Protestant ethic. Mama, "Well-whether they drinks it or not aint none of my business. But whether I got into business selling it to 'em is, and I don't want that ✓ on my ledger this late in life."

"The younger house is full of anticipation as the family awaits the arrival of the insurance check." Scene II introduces us to the situation around the younger family in the morning of the arrival of the check. ✓ The excitement as this day is about to mark a day when they finally escape from poverty. Ruth is nowhere to be found. Mama enquires about her but Walter is too preoccupied by the check to be worried about his wife. There is another tension between Walter and his mother when Walter excitedly brings up the liquor store ✓ investment. And Mama shoots him down immediately. Mama is more worried



about his son relationship with his daughter in law. She tries to figure out what is wrong with Walter. But eventually Walter reveals how he is tired of his situation and wants to be healthy and own a business like the white boys that he passes by downtown who owns "cool, quiet-looking restaurants". When Mama refuses to invest in the liquor store, Walter says, well, you tell that to my boy tonight when you put him to sleep on the living-room couch... yeah and tell it to my wife, Mama when she has to go out there to look after somebody else's kids. And tell it to me, Mama everytime we need a new pair of curtains and I have to watch you go out and work in somebody's kitchen. Walter's quest of success and wealth has reduced into adopting a corrupt middle class ideology that places money and power above all. As he is unable to achieve that he most desires, a peculiar breed of bitterness begin to consume him. Even when Lena come back with the news that she has put a down payment on a house using the insurance check, unlike the rest of the family



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who is excited by the news of moving. Walter's bitterness remains when Lena asks her what he thinks he replies by saying: "What you need me to say you done right for? you the head of this family, you run <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ family like you want to. It was your money and you did what you wanted with it." Once again the Author has shown us how the arrival of the check has hindered the relationship between Mother and son. To remedy the situation Lena makes a very difficult decision, and gives Walter authority over the insurance money. Walter is now the head of the family. For the first time, he is trusted to make critical decisions that affect not only himself, but the entire family. Mama's decision to make Walter the head of the family seemed to have worked. One week later the family was about to move to their new house everyone was happy including Walter who has been bitter the whole time. The whole situation seem to have remedied the family's tensions. The relationship between Beneatha and Walter is getting better. Walter enters





the room and dances with his wife, which is something that the Author has never introduced us to. It seemed the family has found their happily ever after. Even Mr Karl Lindner's unpleasant visits doesn't seem to matter to them at all.

But then in the space of the moment Bobo's unexpected visit changes the situation from bad to worse. He come to deliver the bad news to Walter about how Willy has run off with their money. Walter had used all of the \$6,500 Lena gave him in the store. Beneatha upon learning that his brother has not put away any money for her education is devastated. Lena is also devastated by the news. While the family is trying to figure out whether to move or not. Walter once again tries to make a selfish deal that will only favour him not the whole family. He tries to accept Mr Lindner's offer to buy them off the property. Which leads to Beneatha disowning her own brother. Mama gives up and begin making preparations to stay. Ruth insist that they move



She even offers to work several jobs in order to make possible. ✓

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Your essay is too long.  
There is too much narration.  
Be more critical in your submissions. Nyoni K

### Sources consulted

Hansberry, L. 1958. A Raisin in the Sun. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Dr Damba, S. Ms Janari, B. Dr Maitlhu, S. prof Masekola, K. prof Murray, J. Dr Musvot, A. Prof Raditlhalo, S. prof Vambe, M. Colonial and post colonial African Literature. Only study guide for Eng2603. University of South Africa, Pretoria

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STUDENT NUMBER: 47494557

ASSIGNMENT TOPIC: A Raisin in the Sun

ASSIGNMENT NUMBER: 02

UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT NUMBER: 809359

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