

A Raisin in the Sun: Act I, scene 2 Questions

Directions: *Answer each of the questions in complete sentences. Use specific details from the play to support your responses.*

1. **How does Hansberry use Beneatha and Asagai to challenge traditional relationship roles?** To respond, you should review the dialogue between Asagai and Beneatha and think to yourself: *How would I describe Asagai's behavior?* Now- imagine that Asagai and Beneatha swapped lines and think to yourself: *How would I see Beneatha if she said the things Asagai said about their relationship?* **(3 sentences)** For example, look at page 44. Asagi says when they next talk, they will talk about how long it is taking Beneatha to figure out the kind of relationship she wants with him. She says she isn't interested in being serious. Now- imagine that Beneatha is the one who insists on making the relationship romantically exclusive (and sexual). Think to yourself: *in popular media, is it the man or the woman who is often portrayed as wanting the relationship to be more serious? Does Hansberry show us the same thing or does she change it up? Why would she change it up?*

2. Asagai playfully teases Beneatha about her "mutilated hair" and jokingly suggested that she was an "assimilationist."
 - a. **What point does Hansberry make about the early stages of the Afrocentrism?** (Note: Afrocentrism is a social movement that called people from African origins to explore and take pride in their heritage). Ask yourself: *does she show us a need for it or does she show us a reason it came to being?* Use Asagai's comments and Beneatha's reaction to support your answer. **(3 sentences)**

- b. Hansberry could have picked any character to represent the beginning of the Afrocentrism movement. Why does Hansberry choose Beneatha instead of Walter or Travis...or any of the other characters for that matter, to illustrate her point about Afrocentrism? Ask yourself: *what makes Beneatha a good choice- is it something about her education or the way she views her family or the rest of the world that makes her a good choice?* **(2 sentences)**

3. By the close of Act I, scene 2- Walter feels as though nobody will hear him out. How does this feeling influence his reaction to Ruth's news? **(2 sentences)**

4. Walter initially makes light of Mama's accusation (that Ruth plans to have an abortion). He says that Ruth would never do that and implies he knows her better than that. Ruth said that she would. Which of Ruth's traits does Walter underestimate? What does this underestimation imply about the current state of their marriage? **(3 sentences)**

5. Mama calls Walter a disgrace to his father's memory for walking out and not fighting for their child's life.

a. Why does Mama use Walter, Sr. as a comparison? (**2 sentences**)

b. What do we understand about the difference between Mama and Walter's values as a result of their different reactions to Ruth's confession? (**2 sentences**)