

a raisin the sun

a raisin the sun is one of the most influential plays in American literature, exploring themes of dreams, identity, racism, and family bonds. Written by Lorraine Hansberry, this iconic work offers an insightful portrayal of a Black family's struggle for a better life in 1950s Chicago. Throughout this article, we will delve into the play's historical context, analyze its main characters, unravel its central themes, and examine its lasting impact on both literature and society. Readers will discover why "a raisin the sun" remains relevant today, how it addresses social issues, and its significance in American theater. Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this comprehensive overview will provide valuable insights and enrich your understanding of Hansberry's masterpiece.

- Historical Context of a Raisin the Sun
- Main Characters and Their Roles
- Major Themes in a Raisin the Sun
- Symbolism and Literary Devices
- Impact on American Literature and Society
- Critical Reception and Legacy
- Frequently Asked Questions

Historical Context of a Raisin the Sun

Understanding the historical backdrop of "a raisin the sun" is essential for grasping the play's deeper meanings. Lorraine Hansberry wrote this groundbreaking drama in the late 1950s, a period marked by significant racial and social tensions in the United States. The play premiered on Broadway in 1959, making Hansberry the first African American woman to have a play produced on Broadway. The story is set in Chicago's South Side, where the Younger family faces systemic barriers while striving for upward mobility.

Hansberry drew inspiration from her own life experiences, specifically her family's battle against housing discrimination. This real-world struggle is reflected in the Younger family's attempts to purchase a home in a predominantly white neighborhood. The play's title is borrowed from Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem," which questions what happens to a dream deferred. This connection underscores the play's exploration of deferred dreams and aspirations within an oppressive society.

Main Characters and Their Roles

The Younger Family

At the heart of "a Raisin the Sun" is the Younger family, whose members each embody distinct perspectives and dreams. Their relationships and conflicts drive the play's narrative and themes.

- **Lena Younger ("Mama"):** The matriarch, Mama represents hope, faith, and resilience. She dreams of providing a better future for her family and values unity above all.
- **Walter Lee Younger:** Mama's son, Walter is ambitious and deeply frustrated by his socioeconomic limitations. He aspires to improve his family's status through entrepreneurship.
- **Beneatha Younger:** Walter's sister, Beneatha is an intellectual who seeks self-identity and independence. She rejects traditional gender roles and explores her African heritage.
- **Ruth Younger:** Walter's wife, Ruth endures daily hardships and longs for stability. She is practical, often serving as the family's emotional anchor.
- **Travis Younger:** Walter and Ruth's young son, Travis symbolizes innocence and hope for the future.

Supporting Characters

Other characters play pivotal roles in shaping the Younger family's journey. Karl Lindner, a representative of the white neighborhood's homeowners' association, offers the Youngers money not to move in, highlighting racial prejudice. Joseph Asagai and George Murchison are Beneatha's suitors, representing different cultural and ideological paths.

Major Themes in a Raisin the Sun

The Pursuit of Dreams

Dreams are central to "a Raisin the Sun." Each character's aspirations reflect their desire for dignity, equality, and fulfillment. The play interrogates whether the American Dream is accessible to everyone, especially marginalized communities.

Racial Discrimination and Social Injustice

Racism and segregation shape the Younger family's daily reality. The play powerfully exposes

housing discrimination, limited economic opportunities, and the psychological toll of institutionalized prejudice.

Family and Identity

The Younger family's strength lies in their unity, despite generational and ideological differences. Hansberry explores how family bonds provide support and resilience amid adversity. Beneatha's quest for identity highlights issues of self-expression and cultural pride.

Gender Roles and Feminism

Through Beneatha and Ruth, "A Raisin in the Sun" addresses women's roles in society and family. Beneatha challenges traditional expectations, seeking autonomy and professional success, while Ruth's experiences reflect the burdens faced by many women.

Symbolism and Literary Devices

Symbolism in the Play

Hansberry uses vivid symbols to deepen the play's emotional resonance and meaning.

- **The Plant:** Mama's plant represents the family's hope and care for the future. Its struggle to thrive mirrors the Youngers' resilience in harsh conditions.
- **The New House:** The house symbolizes progress, stability, and the promise of a better life, while also highlighting the obstacles posed by racism.
- **Money:** The insurance check is a catalyst for conflict, symbolizing both opportunity and the cost of deferred dreams.

Literary Devices and Style

"A Raisin in the Sun" employs powerful dialogue, dramatic tension, and poetic language. Hansberry integrates realism with moments of lyricism, drawing from both theatrical conventions and African American oral traditions.

The play's structure builds suspense and emotional intensity, allowing audiences to empathize with the characters' struggles and triumphs.

Impact on American Literature and Society

Breaking Barriers in Theater

"A Raisin in the Sun" was a trailblazer for Black playwrights and actors in American theater. Its Broadway debut was a landmark moment, paving the way for greater representation and diversity on stage.

Social and Cultural Influence

The play's honest depiction of racial and economic challenges inspired generations of writers, artists, and activists. It contributed to conversations about civil rights, social justice, and the American Dream, resonating with audiences far beyond its original era.

Its themes continue to inform contemporary discussions about equity, community, and the enduring power of hope.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Initial Response

Upon its release, "A Raisin in the Sun" received widespread acclaim for its compelling storytelling and authentic portrayal of Black life. Critics praised Lorraine Hansberry's skillful character development and emotional depth.

Enduring Legacy

Decades later, the play remains a staple in academic curricula and theater productions. It is frequently referenced in literary studies and has inspired numerous adaptations, including film and television versions.

"A Raisin in the Sun" stands as a testament to the transformative power of art, continuing to challenge and inspire new audiences.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main conflict in "a raisin the sun"?

A: The main conflict centers on the Younger family's struggle to achieve their dreams amid racial discrimination and financial hardship, particularly around the decision to buy a house in a white neighborhood.

Q: Who wrote "a raisin the sun" and when was it first performed?

A: Lorraine Hansberry wrote "a raisin the sun," which premiered on Broadway in 1959.

Q: What does the title "a raisin the sun" mean?

A: The title references Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem," which asks what happens to a dream deferred, symbolizing the unfulfilled aspirations of the play's characters.

Q: Why is "a raisin the sun" considered important in American literature?

A: The play is significant for its authentic depiction of African American life, its breakthrough in theater history, and its exploration of universal themes like hope, family, and equality.

Q: What role does Mama's plant play in the story?

A: Mama's plant symbolizes the family's hope and perseverance, reflecting their desire to nurture a better future despite adversity.

Q: What are some major themes in "a raisin the sun"?

A: Major themes include the pursuit of dreams, racial discrimination, family unity, gender roles, and cultural identity.

Q: How does "a raisin the sun" address racial discrimination?

A: The play confronts racism through the Younger family's experiences with housing segregation and societal prejudice, highlighting the challenges of achieving equality.

Q: Who are the main characters in "a raisin the sun"?

A: The main characters are Lena Younger (Mama), Walter Lee Younger, Beneatha Younger, Ruth Younger, and Travis Younger.

Q: Has "a raisin the sun" been adapted into other media?

A: Yes, "a raisin the sun" has been adapted into films, television productions, and stage revivals, further expanding its influence.

Q: What impact did "a raisin the sun" have on the civil rights movement?

A: The play helped raise awareness of social inequalities and inspired dialogue about civil rights, contributing to broader efforts for social change in America.

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A Raisin in the Sun: A Deep Dive into Lorraine Hansberry's Masterpiece

Introduction:

Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun" isn't just a play; it's a searing indictment of racial injustice, a testament to the enduring power of family, and a poignant exploration of the American Dream. This post offers a comprehensive analysis of Hansberry's groundbreaking work, exploring its major themes, characters, and lasting legacy. We'll delve into the symbolism, the social commentary, and the enduring relevance of this powerful piece of American literature, providing you with a thorough understanding to enhance your appreciation and analysis. Get ready to unpack the layers of this theatrical masterpiece.

The Crushing Weight of Systemic Racism: A Central Theme in "A Raisin in the Sun"

The play's title, borrowed from Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem," immediately establishes a central theme: the stifled potential of Black Americans in the face of systemic racism. The "raisin" represents the dreams of the Younger family, slowly drying up and losing their vibrancy under the oppressive weight of prejudice and economic inequality. This isn't simply about individual struggles;

it's about the systemic barriers that prevent Black families from achieving their aspirations, regardless of their hard work and ambition. The Younger family's experiences highlight the pervasive nature of discrimination in housing, employment, and societal expectations. The play forces us to confront the uncomfortable realities of the era and their lasting consequences.

The Power of Family: Bonds and Conflicts in the Younger Household

Despite the immense pressure exerted by racism and financial hardship, the Younger family remains a powerful force. Their close-knit bond, though tested repeatedly, forms the emotional core of the play. However, this unity is frequently fractured by conflicting dreams and differing perspectives on how to navigate their challenging circumstances. Mama's desire for a house symbolizes her yearning for stability and a better future for her children, while Walter Lee's ambition for a liquor store represents his desperate attempt to achieve financial independence and provide for his family. Beneatha's aspirations for medical school and her exploration of identity further complicate the family dynamic. The play masterfully portrays the internal struggles within the family as much as the external pressures they face.

Character Analysis: Exploring the Depth of Each Younger Family Member

Mama (Lena Younger): The matriarch, Mama, represents the heart and soul of the family. Her groundedness and unwavering faith anchor the family through their trials, yet she too grapples with the frustrations and limitations imposed upon her.

Walter Lee Younger: Walter Lee is a complex and flawed character. His struggles with self-doubt and the pressure to provide fuel his risky decision-making, making him a deeply sympathetic figure despite his flaws.

Beneatha Younger: Beneatha represents the younger generation's quest for self-discovery and independence. Her intellectual curiosity and determination to overcome societal expectations make her a symbol of empowerment and resistance.

Ruth Younger: Ruth, Walter Lee's wife, portrays the strength and resilience of Black women facing immense social and economic pressures. She embodies the quiet determination needed to survive and maintain hope.

Travis Younger: Young Travis, though a minor character, embodies the innocence and vulnerability of the next generation, inadvertently highlighting the weight of the family's circumstances.

Symbolism and Imagery: Unpacking the Meaning Behind the Metaphors

Hansberry uses powerful symbolism throughout the play. The plant, entrusted to Mama's care, symbolizes the family's fragile hope for a better future, its survival dependent on nurturing and protection. The house itself represents not just physical shelter but the embodiment of the American Dream, a refuge from the harsh realities of segregation and prejudice. The play's setting, a cramped apartment, visually represents their limited opportunities. The characters' interactions with the outside world symbolize the constant struggle against racial discrimination.

The Enduring Relevance of "A Raisin in the Sun"

Though written in the 1950s, "A Raisin in the Sun" remains strikingly relevant today. The themes of racial inequality, economic disparity, and the pursuit of the American Dream continue to resonate with audiences worldwide. The play serves as a powerful reminder that the fight for equality and justice is an ongoing process. It underscores the importance of family, perseverance, and the enduring hope for a brighter future, even in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Hope and Perseverance

"A Raisin in the Sun" is more than just a play; it's a cultural touchstone, a testament to the power of storytelling to illuminate social injustices and inspire hope. Its enduring popularity lies in its exploration of universal themes – family, ambition, and the relentless pursuit of a better life – framed within the specific context of the Black experience in mid-20th-century America. Through its compelling characters and potent symbolism, the play continues to provoke dialogue, challenge assumptions, and remind us of the ongoing fight for equality and justice.

FAQs

1. What is the significance of the play's title, "A Raisin in the Sun"? The title, taken from a Langston Hughes poem, symbolizes the potential that is wasted or destroyed due to systemic racism and oppression. The "raisin" represents dreams that wither and dry up without proper nourishment.
2. How does the play depict the complexities of the American Dream? The play demonstrates the American Dream's inaccessibility to Black Americans due to systemic racism, highlighting the disparities and challenges they face in pursuing their aspirations.

3. What is the role of women in "A Raisin in the Sun"? The women, particularly Mama and Ruth, are portrayed as pillars of strength and resilience, facing immense challenges with quiet determination and unwavering support for their families.

4. What are the main conflicts in the play? The play explores internal conflicts within the Younger family about how to use their newfound money, as well as external conflicts stemming from racial discrimination and social inequalities.

5. Why is "A Raisin in the Sun" still considered relevant today? The play's themes of racial injustice, economic inequality, and the pursuit of the American Dream remain deeply relevant and continue to resonate with audiences worldwide, highlighting the enduring struggle for equality and justice.

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in the Sun Lorraine Hansberry, 2011-11-02 Never before, in the entire history of the American theater, has so much of the truth of Black people's lives been seen on the stage, observed James Baldwin shortly before *A Raisin in the Sun* opened on Broadway in 1959. This edition presents the fully restored, uncut version of Hansberry's landmark work with an introduction by Robert Nemiroff. Lorraine Hansberry's award-winning drama about the hopes and aspirations of a struggling, working-class family living on the South Side of Chicago connected profoundly with the psyche of Black America—and changed American theater forever. The play's title comes from a line in Langston Hughes's poem *Harlem*, which warns that a dream deferred might dry up/like a raisin in the sun. The events of every passing year add resonance to *A Raisin in the Sun*, said *The New York Times*. It is as if history is conspiring to make the play a classic.

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in the Sun Lorraine Hansberry, 2016-11-01 *A Raisin in the Sun* reflects Lorraine Hansberry's childhood experiences in segregated Chicago. This electrifying masterpiece has enthralled audiences and has been heaped with critical accolades. The play that changed American theatre forever - *The New York Times*. Edition Description

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in the Sun Lorraine Hansberry, Jim Cocola, 2002 Get your A in gear! They're today's most popular study guides-with everything you need to succeed in school. Written by Harvard students for students, since its inception SparkNotes(TM) has developed a loyal community of dedicated users and become a major education brand. Consumer demand has been so strong that the guides have expanded to over 150 titles. SparkNotes'(TM) motto is Smarter, Better, Faster because: - They feature the most current ideas and themes, written by experts. - They're easier to understand, because the same people who use them have also written them. - The clear writing style and edited content enables students to read through the material quickly, saving valuable time. And with everything covered--context; plot overview; character lists; themes, motifs, and symbols; summary and analysis, key facts; study questions and essay topics; and reviews and resources--you don't have to go anywhere else!

a raisin the sun: Reimagining A Raisin in the Sun Rebecca Ann Rugg, Harvey Young, 2012-04-15 This book is a collection of four contemporary plays that reflect the themes of racial and cultural difference of Lorraine Hansberry's 1959 play *A Raisin in the Sun*.

a raisin the sun: Lorraine Hansberry: The Life Behind A Raisin in the Sun Charles J. Shields, 2022-01-18 The moving story of the life of the woman behind *A Raisin in the Sun*, the most widely anthologized, read, and performed play of the American stage, by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* Written when she was just twenty-eight, Lorraine Hansberry's landmark *A Raisin in the Sun* is listed by the National Theatre as one of the hundred most significant works of the twentieth century. Hansberry was the first Black woman to have a play performed on Broadway, and the first Black and youngest American playwright to win a *New York Critics' Circle Award*. Charles J. Shields's authoritative biography of one of the twentieth century's most admired playwrights examines the parts of Lorraine Hansberry's life that have escaped public knowledge: the influence of her upper-class background, her fight for peace and

nuclear disarmament, the reason why she embraced Communism during the Cold War, and her dependence on her white husband—her best friend, critic, and promoter. Many of the identity issues about class, sexuality, and race that she struggled with are relevant and urgent today. This dramatic telling of a passionate life—a very American life through self-reinvention—uses previously unpublished interviews with close friends in politics and theater, privately held correspondence, and deep research to reconcile old mysteries and raise new questions about a life not fully described until now.

a raisin the sun: Claudette Colvin Phillip Hoose, 2009-01-20 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER AND NEWBERY HONOR BOOK ● Before Rosa Parks, there was 15-year-old Claudette Colvin. Read the first in-depth account of an important yet largely unknown civil rights figure in this multi-award winning, mega-selling biography from the incomparable Phillip Hoose. “When it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it. You can't sugarcoat it. You have to take a stand and say, ‘This is not right.’” —Claudette Colvin On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South. Based on extensive interviews with Claudette Colvin and many others, Phillip Hoose presents the first major biography of a remarkable civil rights hero, skillfully weaving her riveting story into the fabric of the historic Montgomery bus boycott and court case that would change the course of American history. Awards and Praise for *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* National Book Award Winner A Newbery Honor Book A YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Finalist A Robert F. Sibert Honor Book Amazon.com 100 Biographies and Memoirs to Read in a Lifetime “Hoose's book, based in part on interviews with Colvin and people who knew her—finally gives her the credit she deserves.” —The New York Times Book Review “Claudette's eloquent bravery is unforgettable.” —The Wall Street Journal □ “This inspiring title shows the incredible difference that a single young person can make.” —Booklist, starred review

a raisin the sun: Twelve Angry Men Reginald Rose, 2006-08-29 A landmark American drama that inspired a classic film and a Broadway revival—featuring an introduction by David Mamet A blistering character study and an examination of the American melting pot and the judicial system that keeps it in check, *Twelve Angry Men* holds at its core a deeply patriotic faith in the U.S. legal system. The play centers on Juror Eight, who is at first the sole holdout in an 11-1 guilty vote. Eight sets his sights not on proving the other jurors wrong but rather on getting them to look at the situation in a clear-eyed way not affected by their personal prejudices or biases. Reginald Rose deliberately and carefully peels away the layers of artifice from the men and allows a fuller picture to form of them—and of America, at its best and worst. After the critically acclaimed teleplay aired in 1954, this landmark American drama went on to become a cinematic masterpiece in 1957 starring Henry Fonda, for which Rose wrote the adaptation. More recently, *Twelve Angry Men* had a successful, and award-winning, run on Broadway. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

a raisin the sun: The Guest Book Sarah Blake, 2019-05-07 Instant New York Times Bestseller Longlisted for Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence 2020 New England Society Book Award Winner for Fiction “The Guest Book is monumental in a way that few novels dare attempt.” —The Washington Post The thought-provoking new novel by New York Times bestselling author Sarah Blake An exquisitely written, poignant family saga that illuminates the great divide, the gulf that

separates the rich and poor, black and white, Protestant and Jew. Spanning three generations, *The Guest Book* deftly examines the life and legacy of one unforgettable family as they navigate the evolving social and political landscape from Crockett's Island, their family retreat off the coast of Maine. Blake masterfully lays bare the memories and mistakes each generation makes while coming to terms with what it means to inherit the past.

a raisin the sun: A Reader's Guide to Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* Pamela Loos, 2008-01-01 Presents a critique and analysis of *A Raisin in the Sun*, discussing the plot, themes, dramatic devices, and major characters in the play, and includes a brief overview of Hansberry's other works.

a raisin the sun: *Raisin* Judd Woldin, Robert Nemiroff, Charlotte Zaltzberg, Robert Brittan, 1978 Based on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Musical Drama / 9m, 6f, chorus and extras / Unit set This winner of Tony and Grammy awards as Best Musical ran for three years on Broadway and enjoyed a record breaking national tour. A proud family's quest for a better life meets conflicts that span three generations and set the stage for a drama rich in emotion and laughter. Taking place on Chicago's Southside, it explodes in song, dance, drama and comedy. Pure magic ... dazzling! Tremem

a raisin the sun: *Les Blancs: The Collected Last Plays* Lorraine Hansberry, 1994-12-13 Here are Lorraine Hansberry's last three plays--*Les Blancs*, *The Drinking Gourd*, and *What Use Are Flowers?*--representing the capstone of her achievement. Includes a new preface by Jewell Gresham Nemiroff and a revised introduction by Margaret B. Wilkerson.

a raisin the sun: *Gender in Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun* Gary Wiener, 2011-02-10 The landmark play *A Raisin in the Sun* takes its title from a Langston Hughes poem which poses the questions What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Focusing on a working-class African-American family in Chicago who save enough to purchase either a business in a black neighborhood or a house in a white neighborhood, the play exposes issues of racism and gender as the women of the family make important decisions that push against both racial and gender lines. This volume discusses gender in the play, looking at how the female characters fight both racism and male chauvinism, how the play is dominated by strong female characters, and how characters resist the stereotype of the emasculating female. The book also presents contemporary perspectives on race and feminism in the twenty-first century. Contributors include Barbara Ehrenreich, Jewelle L. Gomez, and Sharon Friedman.

a raisin the sun: *Lorraine Hansberry's The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* Lorraine Hansberry, 1986 This is the probing, hilarious and provocative story of Sidney, a disenchanted Greenwich Village intellectual, his wife Iris, an aspiring actress, and their colorful circle of friends and relations. Set against the shenanigans of a stormy political campaign, the play follows its characters in their unorthodox quests for meaningful lives in an age of corruption, alienation and cynicism. With compassion, humor and poignancy, the author examines questions concerning the fragility of love, morality and ethics, interracial relationships, drugs, rebellion, conformity and especially withdrawal from or commitment to the world.

a raisin the sun: *Half of a Yellow Sun* Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2010-10-29 With her award-winning debut novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was heralded by the Washington Post Book World as the "21st century daughter" of Chinua Achebe. Now, in her masterly, haunting new novel, she recreates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria during the 1960s. With the effortless grace of a natural storyteller, Adichie weaves together the lives of five characters caught up in the extraordinary tumult of the decade. Fifteen-year-old Ugwu is houseboy to Odenigbo, a university professor who sends him to school, and in whose living room Ugwu hears voices full of revolutionary zeal. Odenigbo's beautiful mistress, Olanna, a sociology teacher, is running away from her parents' world of wealth and excess; Kainene, her urbane twin, is taking over their father's business; and Kainene's English lover, Richard, forms a bridge between their two worlds. As we follow these intertwined lives through a military coup, the Biafran secession and the subsequent

war, Adichie brilliantly evokes the promise, and intimately, the devastating disappointments that marked this time and place. Epic, ambitious and triumphantly realized, *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a more powerful, dramatic and intensely emotional picture of modern Africa than any we have had before.

a raisin the sun: The Sun-Maid Raisins Play Book B. Alison Weir, 1999 Invites little fingers to dive into a box of raisins as they help decorate everything from cookies to ladybugs to snowmen.

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in The Sun Black Theatre Canada Archives, Lorraine Hansberry, 1980

a raisin the sun: Looking for Lorraine Imani Perry, 2018-09-18 Winner of the 2019 PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography Winner of the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction Winner of the Shilts-Grahn Triangle Award for Lesbian Nonfiction Winner of the 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award A New York Times Notable Book of 2018 A revealing portrait of one of the most gifted and charismatic, yet least understood, Black artists and intellectuals of the twentieth century. Lorraine Hansberry, who died at thirty-four, was by all accounts a force of nature. Although best-known for her work *A Raisin in the Sun*, her short life was full of extraordinary experiences and achievements, and she had an unflinching commitment to social justice, which brought her under FBI surveillance when she was barely in her twenties. While her close friends and contemporaries, like James Baldwin and Nina Simone, have been rightly celebrated, her story has been diminished and relegated to one work—until now. In 2018, Hansberry will get the recognition she deserves with the PBS American Masters documentary “Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart” and Imani Perry’s multi-dimensional, illuminating biography, *Looking for Lorraine*. After the success of *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry used her prominence in myriad ways: challenging President Kennedy and his brother to take bolder stances on Civil Rights, supporting African anti-colonial leaders, and confronting the romantic racism of the Beat poets and Village hipsters. Though she married a man, she identified as lesbian and, risking censure and the prospect of being outed, joined one of the nation’s first lesbian organizations. Hansberry associated with many activists, writers, and musicians, including Malcolm X, Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Paul Robeson, W.E.B. Du Bois, among others. *Looking for Lorraine* is a powerful insight into Hansberry’s extraordinary life—a life that was tragically cut far too short. A Black Caucus of the American Library Association Honor Book for Nonfiction A 2019 Pauli Murray Book Prize Finalist

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in the Sun , 1996-03-21 The author writes of her childhood experiences with racism.

a raisin the sun: Sally's Baking Addiction Sally McKenney, 2016-10-11 Updated with a brand-new selection of desserts and treats, the fully illustrated Sally's Baking Addiction cookbook offers more than 80 scrumptious recipes for indulging your sweet tooth—featuring a chapter of healthier dessert options, including some vegan and gluten-free recipes. It's no secret that Sally McKenney loves to bake. Her popular blog, Sally's Baking Addiction, has become a trusted source for fellow dessert lovers who are also eager to bake from scratch. Sally's famous recipes include award-winning Salted Caramel Dark Chocolate Cookies, No-Bake Peanut Butter Banana Pie, delectable Dark Chocolate Butterscotch Cupcakes, and yummy Marshmallow Swirl S'mores Fudge. Find tried-and-true sweet recipes for all kinds of delicious: Breads & Muffins Breakfasts Brownies & Bars Cakes, Pies & Crisps Candy & Sweet Snacks Cookies Cupcakes Healthier Choices With tons of simple, easy-to-follow recipes, you get all of the sweet with none of the fuss! Hungry for more? Learn to create even more irresistible sweets with Sally’s Candy Addiction and Sally’s Cookie Addiction.

a raisin the sun: The Westing Game Ellen Raskin, 2020-10-13 A Newbery Medal Winner For over thirty-five years, Ellen Raskin's Newbery Medal-winning *The Westing Game* has been an enduring favorite. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires—it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense. Winner of the Newbery Medal Winner of the Boston Globe/Horn

Book Award An ALA Notable Book A School Library Journal One Hundred Books That Shaped the Century A supersharp mystery...confoundingly clever, and very funny. —Booklist, starred review Great fun for those who enjoy illusion, word play, or sleight of hand. —The New York Times Book Review A fascinating medley of word games, disguises, multiple aliases, and subterfuges—a demanding but rewarding book. —The Horn Book

a raisin the sun: Chocolate-Covered Katie Katie Higgins, 2015-01-06 From one of the top 25 food websites in America and the queen of healthy desserts," Katie Higgins, comes Chocolate Covered Katie's first cookbook with 80 never-before-seen recipes, such as Chocolate Obsession Cake, Peanut Butter Pudding Pops, and Ultimate Unbaked Brownies (Glamour magazine)! What if you CAN eat all of your favorite desserts . . . and still be healthy and fit into your skinny jeans? Meet Katie: a girl who eats chocolate every day and sometimes even has cake for breakfast! When Katie's sugar habit went too far in college and left her lacking energy, she knew something needed to change. So she began developing her own naturally sweet recipes and posting them online. Soon, Katie's healthy dessert blog had become an Internet sensation, with over six million monthly visitors. Using only real ingredients, without any unnecessary fats, sugars, or empty calories, these desserts prove once and for all that health and happiness can go hand-in-hand—you can have your dessert and eat it, too!

a raisin the sun: Magnolia Table Joanna Gaines, Marah Stets, 2018-04-24 #1 New York Times Bestseller Magnolia Table is infused with Joanna Gaines' warmth and passion for all things family, prepared and served straight from the heart of her home, with recipes inspired by dozens of Gaines family favorites and classic comfort selections from the couple's new Waco restaurant, Magnolia Table. Jo believes there's no better way to celebrate family and friendship than through the art of togetherness, celebrating tradition, and sharing a great meal. Magnolia Table includes 125 classic recipes—from breakfast, lunch, and dinner to small plates, snacks, and desserts—presenting a modern selection of American classics and personal family favorites. Complemented by her love for her garden, these dishes also incorporate homegrown, seasonal produce at the peak of its flavor. Inside Magnolia Table, you'll find recipes the whole family will enjoy, such as: Chicken Pot Pie Chocolate Chip Cookies Asparagus and Fontina Quiche Brussels Sprouts with Crispy Bacon, Toasted Pecans, and Balsamic Reduction Peach Caprese Overnight French Toast White Cheddar Bisque Fried Chicken with Sticky Poppy Seed Jam Lemon Pie Mac and Cheese Full of personal stories and beautiful photos, Magnolia Table is an invitation to share a seat at the table with Joanna Gaines and her family.

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in the Sun Emily Hutchinson, 2000 A play about a struggling black family living on Chicago's South Side and the impact of an unexpected insurance bequest. Each family member sees the bequest as the means of realizing dreams and of escape from gringing frustrations.

a raisin the sun: Faith, Hope, and Ivy June Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, 2009-06-09 When push comes to shove, two Kentucky girls find strength in each other. Ivy June Mosely and Catherine Combs, two girls from different parts of Kentucky, are participating in the first seventh-grade student exchange program between their schools. The girls will stay at each other's homes, attend school together, and record their experience in their journals. Catherine and her family have a beautiful home with plenty of space. Since Ivy June's house is crowded, she lives with her grandparents. Her Pappaw works in the coal mines supporting four generations of kinfolk. Ivy June can't wait until he leaves that mine forever and retires. As the girls get closer, they discover they're more alike than different, especially when they face the terror of not knowing what's happening to those they love most.

a raisin the sun: Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone James Baldwin, 2013-09-17 A major work of American literature from a major American writer that powerfully portrays the anguish of being Black in a society that at times seems poised on the brink of total racial war. Baldwin is one of the few genuinely indispensable American writers. —Saturday Review At the height of his theatrical career, the actor Leo Proudhammer is nearly felled by a heart attack. As he

hovers between life and death, Baldwin shows the choices that have made him enviably famous and terrifyingly vulnerable. For between Leo's childhood on the streets of Harlem and his arrival into the intoxicating world of the theater lies a wilderness of desire and loss, shame and rage. An adored older brother vanishes into prison. There are love affairs with a white woman and a younger black man, each of whom will make irresistible claims on Leo's loyalty. *Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* is overpowering in its vitality and extravagant in the intensity of its feeling.

a raisin the sun: *It's Raining Tacos!* Parry Gripp, 2021-06-22 Wildly fun and full of laugh-out-loud antics, this interactive sing-along is a zany romp sure to capture fans of *Giraffes Can't Dance* and *Dragons Love Tacos*. Shell we dance? Taco-bout irresistible! Jam out to the catchy, toe-tapping tune "Raining Tacos" from YouTube sensation Parry Gripp, featuring everyone's favorite treat! This spec-taco-ular, goofy song, with new, never-before-sung lyrics, is perfect for sharing, so grab a few friends—young or old—and get ready to crunch your way to a good time! It's raining tacos, from out of the sky. Tacos, no need to ask why. Just open your mouth and close your eyes. It's raining tacos!

a raisin the sun: *Clybourne Park* Bruce Norris, 2011 An acerbically brilliant satire that explores the fault line between race and property. In 1959, Russ and Bev are selling their desirable two-bed for a knock-down price, enabling the first black family to move into the neighbourhood and alarming the cosy white urbanites of Clybourne Park, Chicago. In 2009 the same property is being bought by Lindsey and Steve, a young white couple, whose plan to raze the house and start again is met with a similar response. As the arguments rage and tensions rise, ghosts and racial resentments are once more uncovered... Bruce Norris's play *Clybourne Park* was first performed at Playwrights Horizons, New York City, in February 2010. The play received its European premiere at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in September 2010, transferring to Wyndham's Theatre in the West End in February 2011. The play received numerous awards, including the London Evening Standard Award for Best Play, the Critics Circle Award for Best New Play, the Olivier Award for Best New Play, the Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

a raisin the sun: *The Scarred Letter* Val Muller, 2014-06-24 Heather Primm never anticipated that a single blog post could ruin her life. Heather's scoop about steroid use by key players on the school football team sets off an investigation that strips the Orchard Valley Thunderbolts of their state title-and earns Heather a coveted journalism prize. Hated by those involved in the scandal, despised by jealous members of the newspaper staff, ignored by her newly-popular ex-boyfriend, and even berated by her mother, Heather is attacked and a chilling T is carved into her face. Now stigmatized as a traitor, she becomes the object of scorn for nearly all of Orchard Valley High. But when the school offers to send her to a private academy to hush up the matter, Heather is forced to make a decision. Should she refuse to allow fear to control her life by holding to the truth, or accept the chance to escape and build a new life? Written by a veteran English teacher, *The Scarred Letter* weaves themes from Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* into an accessible, intelligent tale of modern isolation and a young woman's quest for truth and acceptance. Authentic reboot of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* for today's readers. Heather Primm publishes the truth on her blog and pays an appalling price. It's up to Heather's younger sister to remind her what's true and what's not--and help her find a way forward. A powerful book. -- Adele Abbot, author, *Of Machines & Magics* and *Postponing Armageddon* High school becomes the perfect substitute for Hawthorne's Puritan society in this accessible take on *The Scarlet Letter*. Surrounded by ruthless cliques and wannabe outsiders, Heather finds out just how hard standing up for yourself and your beliefs can be. A powerful message for readers of all ages. -- Sheri S. Levy, author, *Seven Days to Goodbye*

a raisin the sun: *The Girl Who Flew Away* Val Muller, 2017-03-07 No good deed goes unpunished when freshman Steffie Brenner offers to give her awkward new neighbor a ride home after her first day at school. When her older sister Ali stops at a local park to apply for a job, Steffie and Madison slip out of the car to explore the park--and Madison vanishes. Already in trouble for a speeding ticket, Ali insists that Steffie say nothing about Madison's disappearance. Even when

Madison's mother comes looking for her. Even when the police question them. Some secrets are hard to hide, though--especially with Madison's life on the line. As she struggles between coming clean or going along with her manipulative sister's plan, Steffie begins to question if she or anyone else is really who she thought they were. After all, the Steffie she used to know would never lie about being the last person to see Madison alive--nor would she abandon a friend in the woods: alone, cold, injured, or even worse. But when Steffie learns an even deeper secret about her own past, a missing person seems like the least of her worries...

a raisin the sun: A Raisin in the Sun , 1992

a raisin the sun: Rabbit Angstrom John Updike, 1995-10-17 When we first met him in *Rabbit, Run* (1960), the book that established John Updike as a major novelist, Harry (Rabbit) Angstrom is playing basketball with some boys in an alley in Pennsylvania during the tail end of the Eisenhower era, reliving for a moment his past as a star high school athlete. Athleticism of a different sort is on display throughout these four magnificent novels—the athleticism of an imagination possessed of the ability to lay bare, with a seemingly effortless animal grace, the enchantments and disenchantments of life. Updike revisited his hero toward the end of each of the following decades in the second half of this American century; and in each of the subsequent novels, as Rabbit, his wife, Janice, his son, Nelson, and the people around them grow, these characters take on the lineaments of our common existence. In prose that is one of the glories of contemporary literature, Updike has chronicled the frustrations and ambiguous triumphs, the longuors, the loves and frenzies, the betrayals and reconciliations of our era. He has given us our representative American story. This Rabbit Angstrom volume is composed of the following novels: *Rabbit, Run*; *Rabbit Redux*; *Rabbit is Rich*; and *Rabbit at Rest*.

a raisin the sun: Diffordsguide Cocktails Simon Difford, 2013 Contains over 3000 illustrated cocktail recipes.

a raisin the sun: The Panther and the Lash Langston Hughes, 2011-10-26 Hughes's last collection of poems commemorates the experience of Black Americans in a voice that no reader could fail to hear—the last testament of a great American writer who grappled fearlessly and artfully with the most compelling issues of his time. “Langston Hughes is a titanic figure in 20th-century American literature ... a powerful interpreter of the American experience.” —The Philadelphia Inquirer From the publication of his first book in 1926, Langston Hughes was America's acknowledged poet of color. Here, Hughes's voice—sometimes ironic, sometimes bitter, always powerful—is more pointed than ever before, as he explicitly addresses the racial politics of the sixties in such pieces as *Prime, Motto, Dream Deferred*, *Frederick Douglas: 1817-1895*, *Still Here*, *Birmingham Sunday*, *History, Slave, Warning*, and *Daybreak in Alabama*.

a raisin the sun: Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun Lorraine Hansberry, 1988

a raisin the sun: Cora Cassidy and the Craven Corgi Val Muller, 2014-11-08 Raven the corgi is afraid of . . . everything! During a snowstorm, Raven cowers in fear, remembering the scariest parts of each season: snow-monsters, b-b-b-aths, sea creatures, whistling wind . . . Meanwhile, Raven's person, Cora, comforts the pup, remembering the best each season has to offer. Living in fear, Raven is unable to enjoy the magic that each day brings. Can Cora's optimism convince the corgi to find warmth, love, and joy in each season and each day? Written in verse and beautifully illustrated, *Cora Cassidy and the Craven Corgi* is perfect for reading aloud at bedtime. Inspired by real-life fraidy-dog Yoda, the book was written by author of the Corgi Capers mystery series with the belief that we can find something magic every day of our lives.

a raisin the sun: Faulkner's Apprentice Val Muller, 2013-04 Lorelei Cecelia Franklin broke a twenty-year streak of bad luck when she won the L. Cameron Faulkner fiction contest. Apprenticed to the reclusive and famous author, Lorei will spend three weeks with the master of horror himself in the secluded mountains of Virginia. On her way to Faulkner's mansion, Lorei meets a leathery man who snares souls that desire too much, and everything in the mansion screams warnings against him. But with her lust for Faulkner, her appetite for fame, and her wish to protect her ailing mother, Lorei's chances for escape are slim.

a raisin the sun: *A Raisin in the Sun* Lorraine Hansberry, 2004-11-29 Never before, in the entire history of the American theater, has so much of the truth of Black people's lives been seen on the stage, observed James Baldwin shortly before *A Raisin in the Sun* opened on Broadway in 1959. This edition presents the fully restored, uncut version of Hansberry's landmark work with an introduction by Robert Nemiroff. Lorraine Hansberry's award-winning drama about the hopes and aspirations of a struggling, working-class family living on the South Side of Chicago connected profoundly with the psyche of Black America—and changed American theater forever. The play's title comes from a line in Langston Hughes's poem *Harlem*, which warns that a dream deferred might dry up/like a raisin in the sun. The events of every passing year add resonance to *A Raisin in the Sun*, said *The New York Times*. It is as if history is conspiring to make the play a classic.

a raisin the sun: Thronebreakers Rebecca Coffindaffer, 2021-10-12 Perfect for fans of *Aurora Rising*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Three Dark Crowns*, this electrifying duology closer is jam-packed with tension and thrills that will hook readers from its first page. Alyssa Farshot never wanted to rule the empire. But to honor her uncle's dying wish, she participated in the crownchase, a race across the empire's 1,001 planets to find the royal seal and win the throne. Alyssa tried to help her friend, Coy, win the crownchase, but just as victory was within their grasp, Edgar Voles killed Coy—and claimed the seal for himself. Broken-hearted over her friend's death, Alyssa is hell-bent on revenge. But Edgar is well protected in the kingship. Alyssa will have to rally rivals, friends, and foes from across the empire to take him down and change the course of the galaxy.

a raisin the sun: Crownchasers Rebecca Coffindaffer, 2020-09-29 A deadly race across 1,001 planets will determine more than just the fate of the empire. This explosive first book in a duology jam-packed with tension and thrills is perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games*, *Aurora Rising*, and *Three Dark Crowns*. Alyssa Farshot has spent her whole life trying to outrun her family legacy, even leaving behind the Kingship and her uncle, the emperor, for a life of exploring. But when her dying uncle announces a crownchase—a search for the royal seal hidden in the empire that will determine the next ruler—Alyssa is thrust into her greatest, most dangerous adventure yet.

a raisin the sun: *A Raisin in the Sun* Lorraine Hansberry, 1958

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