

Ms. Frandsen

English 3P

Week #3

Digital

Week 3 Assignment: *A Raisin in the Sun* Act 2 Scene 3 and Play Notes

May 4 – May 8

Read *A Raisin in the Sun* **Act 2 Scene 3** (pages 110-130 in the book we were using in class). Here is a link to the play online:

https://www.coppinacademy.org/ourpages/auto/2017/8/31/41911726/a_raisin_in_the_sun_-_lorraine_hansberry.pdf

After you have read Act 2 Scene 3, write responses to the following questions:

Act 2 scene 3 Questions (2-3 sentences for each response)

1. Why does Walter say, “Even the N double A C P takes a holiday sometimes...” What is the NAACP, and what does his referring to it show about his changing attitude?
2. When Beneatha answers him, “Sticks and stones may break my bones...” what are we reminded of?
3. Why do you think Karl Lindner goes to such lengths to talk about everybody getting along before he gets to his reason for talking to them?
4. Who catches on first to what his purpose in talking to them is about? How do you know?
5. What is so cruelly ironic in Lindner’s statement: “They’re not rich and fancy people; just hardworking, honest people who don’t really have much but those little homes and a dream of the kind of community they want to raise their children in”?
6. Do you believe Lindner when he says to the family, “I want you to believe me when I tell you that race prejudice simply doesn’t enter into it”? Why or why not?
7. What is the disturbing reminder when Mama says that her children have all the energy of the dead?
8. How is this theme carried forward in Walter saying, “[T]hey just dying to have out there... a fine family of fine colored people”? What is the tone set by Walter’s remark?

9. What conversation are we reminded of when Mama prepares to take her plant to the new house and says “It expresses ME!” How does the plant express Mrs. Younger?
10. Explain what happened to the money Walter gave to Bobo. Include details in your answer. Who was supposed to meet who at the train station and when? What happened?
11. What change in Walter do we see when he sobs to Bobo “THAT MONEY IS MADE OUT OF MY FATHER’S FLESH”?

As part of your Week 3 assignment, read the following Play Notes and then complete the assignments that follow.

Play Notes

Master of Allusion

Who is Prometheus? What is “quiet desperation”? These are just a few of the allusions (references to details from history, literature, religion, and other branches of culture) that pepper Act Two.

According to Greek mythology, Prometheus was a Titan (giant) who stole fire from the gods and gave it to humans. His punishment? Zeus chained him to a rock, where each day an eagle came and ate his liver. (Zeus caused the liver to regrow each night, so the torture never ended.) Prometheus finally was freed by Hercules.

A person who speaks of “quiet desperation” is alluding to a comment from Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden* (1854): “The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” (This was a famous book when it was published and it is still famous today. *Walden* is required reading in many high school and college English classes.)

Other allusions in Act Two are to entertainers (Pearl Bailey, Greta Garbo), movie characters (Mrs. Miniver, Scarlett O’Hara), African American leaders (Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois), and more.

NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was established in 1910 to work for the end of racial discrimination and segregation. The NAACP was formed as the direct result of the 1908 lynching of two African Americans in Springfield, Illinois. As early as 1915, the NAACP was able to organize a partially successful boycott of an offensive movie, but early efforts were directed, successfully, against lynchings. By the 1950s, with

this worst example of racism largely eliminated, the NAACP could turn to other civil rights issues.

Play Notes Assignments

1. Choose three of the names mentioned in *Master of Allusion*. Research each of your chosen names online and read about the person. Then write a short paragraph for each person (4-5 sentences) explaining why the person was famous. You can also include some background information on each person if you like. Write each paragraph in your own words.

2. Research the NAACP online and read about this prominent organization. Then write 10 facts about the NAACP.

Reminders:

- Write your name on every document you submit to me through email
- Use a plain font style and edit your work carefully
- Email me at dfrandsen@tusd.net and attach your work to the email
- If you need to talk to me, email your phone number to me during office hours, and I will call you.

Office Hours: Monday 10-12; Tuesday 12-2; Wednesday 8-10; Thursday 2-4;
Friday 9-11