

### Possible thesis statements and thematic ideas for prompt - "Raisin in the Sun"

1. Examine the play "Raisin in the Sun" and discuss ways in which **cultural, physical, or geographical** surroundings shape **psychological or moral traits** in any of the **characters**. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
  - **Key terms**- Cultural, geographical, psychological, moral traits
  - **Question**: *How does culture, physical /geographical setting affect the thoughts and morals of my chosen character?* Choose a character and discuss how culture and moral traits affects this character and say how this brings out the meaning or theme of the story.
  - **Thesis**: **Walter is psychologically tired of his situation in life and aspires to do something differently in order to accomplish his dream.**  
**Introductory Paragraph (1)** - Hansberry opens her book "Raisin in the Sun" with a worn description of the apartment that Walter and his family lives when she says "weariness lives in this room". Walter is psychologically tired of his situation in life and aspires to do something differently in order to accomplish his dream. Segregation and prejudices was the culture of the 1940`s -1970`s, Walter`s courage and determination to make a better life for himself and his family was driven by his desire to "change". His attitude was affected by the obstacles and challenges faced which led to different levels of conflicts within his family and the environment.
2. Everyday symbols can be seen around us, but do we recognize or truly appreciate them. **In the play, A Raisin in the Sun written by Lorraine Hansberry, symbolism reveals a myriad of qualities about the characters.**
  - \* for example, the plant which Mama Younger cares for symbolizes hope and being unrelenting in nurturing and caring for your dreams.
3. Betrayal comes in all forms. When betrayal happens it can have devastating effects on an individual. In the play, A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, we see incidents of betrayal and how it affects a character. **Walter was a victim of betrayal as well as a perpetrator which all leads to the demise of his dream as well as his family.**
4. Dreams are important and causes people to pursue at all costs a goal they would like to accomplish. The recurring theme of the American dream is seen in the play, A Raisin in the Sun written by Lorraine Hansberry. Walter Lee Younger is a complex character who is unloving towards his family, yet wants a better life for all of them. **His complexity of character not only lead to the demise of his dream, but also the dream of his sister Beneatha who wants to become a doctor.**
5. Segregation and prejudice was the culture of the 1940's – 1970's. There were only certain jobs, education, and training an individual who was considered "colored" could obtain. Many felt that they were not valued or were seen as human beings which in turn caused them to feel inadequate. This feeling of inadequacy created a passivity when it came to pursuing one's dreams. Prejudice and segregation influenced the behaviors and attitudes of many African- Americans. Lorraine Hansberry opens her play, A Raisin in the Sun with a worn description of the apartment where the Younger family resides when she states, "weariness lives in this room." Walter Younger, the protagonist in the play, possesses inner strength and courage to make a better life for his family as well as himself. The inner strength and courage he possesses is fueled by a desire to change. His attitude is affected by the obstacles and



challenges he is continuously faced with which leads to different levels of conflict within his family and the environment. **Walter is psychologically tired of his situation in life and aspires to do something different in order to reach his dream.**

### Structure of Theme Analysis Essay

#### Introductory Paragraph

- Open with interesting lead material
- Name the work and the author
- Brief summary of the work
- Thesis

#### Body Paragraph 1

- Discuss the first aspect of the theme by beginning with a topic sentence which generalizes about the theme.
- Provide 2-3 quotations
- Explanation of the quote

#### Body Paragraph 2

- The second part of the body illustrates the next aspect of the theme as stated in the thesis.
- Provide 2-3 quotations
- Explanation of the quote

#### Body Paragraph 3

- Discuss the remaining parts of the theme's development in the last part of the body
- Provide 2-3 quotations
- Explanation of the quote

#### Concluding Paragraph

- Discuss and explain in detail the theme which was stated in the introductory paragraph.
- Topic sentence will clearly restate the theme, and the rest of the paragraph will summarize how the theme is revealed in the work and will explore its universal significance- how it relates to everyone's life because of the universal human condition.

#### Mini sub-rubric

- Strong Thesis statement (originality )- 25 points
- Introductory Paragraph ( establishing key terms and inclusion of thematic ideas )- 25 points
- Organization- 25 points
- 2-3 quotes in each paragraph – 25 points