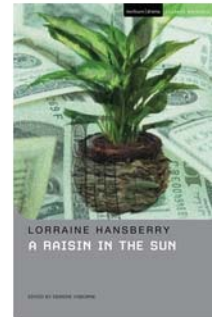




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A Raisin In The Sun

By: Lorraine Hansberry | Editor(s): Deirdre Osborne



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A Raisin in the Sun is a classic American play: a groundbreaking 1950s civil rights drama and has a strong claim to be the greatest play of the black American experience.

Deeply committed to the black struggle for equality and human rights, Lorraine Hansberry's brilliant career as a writer was cut short by her death when she was only 34. *A Raisin in the Sun* was the first play written by a black woman to be produced on Broadway and won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Hansberry was the youngest and the first black writer to receive this award. She was also the first person to be called 'young, gifted and black'.

The play is set in south side Chicago, where Walter Lee, a black chauffeur, dreams of a better life, and hopes to use his father's life insurance money to open a liquor store. Humane and heart-rending, the play depicts characters and a whole society with complexity and reality.

This Student Edition features expert and helpful annotation, including a scene-by-scene summary, a detailed commentary on the dramatic, social and political context, and on the themes, characters, language and structure of the play, as well as a list of suggested reading and questions for further study and a review of performance history.



About Author/Editor(s)/Contributor(s)

Lorraine Hansberry
Lorraine Hansberry was born in 1930 in Southside, Chicago. Her first play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, opened in March 1959 and made history by being the first play written by a female black author.. [More Info](#)

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Deirdre Osborne is a Senior Lecturer in Drama and Theatre Arts at Goldsmiths, University of London.. She has edited an anthology of new Black British plays and critical essays titled... [More Info](#)

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