

a raisin in the sun text

A Raisin in the Sun text is a powerful play written by Lorraine Hansberry that explores the struggles of a working-class African American family in 1950s Chicago. The title, derived from a line in Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem," serves as a metaphor for the dreams and aspirations that can wither away when faced with societal constraints and economic hardship. This article delves into the themes, characters, historical significance, and impact of the play, helping readers understand why this text remains relevant today.

Overview of A Raisin in the Sun

A Raisin in the Sun premiered on Broadway in 1959 and made history as the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on the Great White Way. It tells the story of the Younger family, who live in a cramped apartment on Chicago's South Side. The family members each have their dreams, but socio-economic challenges and racial discrimination threaten to thwart their aspirations.

Characters in A Raisin in the Sun

The play features a rich tapestry of characters, each embodying different aspects of the African American experience during the era. Here's an overview of the key characters:

- **Lena Younger (Mama):** The matriarch of the family, Mama dreams of buying a house with a garden to fulfill her late husband's dream.
- **Walter Lee Younger:** Mama's son, who aspires to invest in a liquor store to improve his family's financial situation but struggles with feelings of inadequacy.