

Week 1 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. At the beginning of the play, why is the Younger family excited?
 - A. Beneatha announced her engagement to George.
 - B. Beneatha just got accepted into medical school.
 - C. Mama is going to receive a large check in the mail the next day.
 - D. Walter is finally going to open his dry cleaning business with his friend, Willy.

2. Place the following events in chronological order:
 1. Asagai brings Beneatha a present.
 2. Ruth announces that she is pregnant.
 3. Ruth passes out.
 4. Ruth wakes up her husband Walter, and her son, Travis.
 - A. 1, 2, 3, 4
 - B. 3, 4, 2, 1
 - C. 4, 2, 3, 1
 - D. 4, 3, 2, 1

3. The play is set in the Younger apartment in
 - A. Chicago, Illinois in 1919.
 - B. Chicago, Illinois in 1999.
 - C. Chicago, Illinois in the 1950s.
 - D. New York, New York, in the 1950s.

4. *The YOUNGER living room would be a comfortable and well-ordered room if it were not for a number of indestructible contradictions to this state of being. Its furnishings are typical and undistinguished and their primary feature now is that they have clearly had to accommodate the living of too many people for too many years – and they are tired. Still, we can see that at some time, a time probably no longer remembered by the family (except perhaps for MAMA), the furnishings of this room were actually selected with care and love and even hope – and brought to this apartment and arranged with taste and pride (p. 23).*

Based on the above paragraph, the reader assumes that the Younger home is:

 - A. Brand new.
 - B. Full of careless people.
 - C. Too crowded
 - D. Wealthy

5. What business does Walter hope to open with some of Mama's money?

Character Based Literacy Program *Assessment*
A Raisin in the Sun

Name _____

Date _____

- A. A donut store.
 - B. A dry cleaner.
 - C. A limousine rental service.
 - D. A liquor store.
6. When Asagai says “*Assimilationism* is so popular in your country” (p. 63), the word *assimilationism* most closely means
- A. Changing to fit in with the dominant culture.
 - B. Having straight hair.
 - C. Imitating movie stars.
 - D. Making an idiot out of yourself.
7. When Mama says “I ain’t *meddling*” (p. 41), the word *meddling* most closely means
- A. Getting involved in someone else’s business.
 - B. Getting up early in the morning.
 - C. Making breakfast for the kids even if they don’t want it.
 - D. Unable to decide between two difficult choices.
8. When she gets the check, Mama wants to
- A. Invest in Walter’s liquor store.
 - B. Leave her family and travel the world.
 - C. Put a down payment on a house.
 - D. Spend all the money on Beneatha’s education.
9. Where is Asagai originally from?
- A. Chicago, Illinois
 - B. New York
 - C. Nigeria, Africa
 - D. Ontario, Canada
10. Why is “Alaiyo” (“One for Whom Bread – Food – Is Not Enough”) an appropriate nickname for Beneatha?
- A. Beneatha is a spiritual person, and spends all her time praying to God.
 - B. Beneatha is always looking for new interests to make her a more complete person.
 - C. Beneatha is very materialistic; she wants to marry a very rich man.
 - D. Beneatha really doesn’t like to eat much.

Week 2 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. In the sentence “I see why we done *commence* to get so interested in Africa ‘round here” (p. 66), the word *commence* most closely means:
 - A. Commerce.
 - B. To begin or start.
 - C. To like someone.
 - D. To make a comment.
2. Mama received the \$10,000 check because
 - A. It's her late husband's life insurance settlement.
 - B. She inherited the money after the death of a rich aunt.
 - C. she sued a former employer and won the money in court.
 - D. she won the Illinois lottery.
3. Place the following events from the play in chronological order:
 1. Beneatha cuts off her hair.
 2. Mama gives Walter \$3500 to spend as he sees fit.
 3. Mr. Lindner visits the Younger's with a shocking proposal.
 4. Mrs. Johnson visits Mama and Ruth one night.
 - A. 1, 4, 2, 3
 - B. 1, 3, 2, 4
 - C. 1, 4, 3, 2
 - D. 4, 1, 2, 3
4. The purpose of Mr. Lindner's visit to the Youngers is to
 - A. Beg the Youngers to buy his house, because he can't afford the payments anymore.
 - B. Offer his services as an attorney to fight racist people in Clybourne Park.
 - C. Offer to buy the house so they won't move into his white neighborhood.
 - D. Threaten the Youngers with violence if they do move into his neighborhood.
5. What is the NAACP?
 - A. National Association Against Colored People.
 - B. National Association for the Advancement of Cerebral Palsy.
 - C. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
 - D. Never Accept Africans Can't Pray.

6. WALTER (*Intently, almost quietly, between the teeth, glaring at the boy*) And you – ain't you bitter, man? Ain't you just about had it yet? Don't you see no stars gleaming that you can't reach out and grab? You happy? – You contented son-of-a-bitch – you happy? You got it made? Bitter? Man, I'm a volcano. Bitter? Here I am a giant – surrounded by ants! Ants who can't even understand what it is the giant is talking about (p. 85).

In the paragraph above, Walter is most closely trying to say:

- A. He hates his wife, mother, and sister.
 - B. He is angry because George is rich and he is not.
 - C. He is disappointed because life has not lived up to his expectations.
 - D. He is smarter than everyone he knows, and wants to smash them like ants.
7. What news does Mrs. Johnson bring to the Youngers?
- A. A black family's house has been bombed in a white neighborhood.
 - B. Beneatha is hiding a secret pregnancy from her mother.
 - C. Mrs. Johnson is also planning to move to Clybourne Park.
 - D. Walter hasn't been going to work for weeks.
8. When Mr. Lindner announces himself as a member of the "Clybourne Park Improvement Association," the word *association* most closely means:
- A. A group of people joined for a common purpose.
 - B. A group of really mean people.
 - C. A school or government body.
 - D. To get along with others.
9. Why are Ruth, Walter, and Beneatha worried about the house Mama has purchased in Clybourne Park?
- A. Clybourne Park is a known gang neighborhood.
 - B. Only white people live in Clybourne Park.
 - C. They don't want to live so far away from their friends.
 - D. They think the house is much too expensive.
10. Why is Mama upset with Ruth for going to the new doctor?
- A. Mama doesn't believe in going to the doctor at all.
 - B. Mama wanted to go to the doctor with Ruth.
 - C. The new doctor is known for performing abortions.
 - D. Their old doctor was a family friend.

Final Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. In the end, why does Walter decide the family should move to Clybourne Park?
 - A. He doesn't; his mother makes him move.
 - B. He realizes that his father worked hard for the money, and would have been proud of the choice.
 - C. He thinks that Youngers should lead America's fight for civil rights.
 - D. He wants Travis to go to the better schools they will find in that neighborhood.
2. In the sentence "I see why we done *commence* to get so interested in Africa 'round here" (p. 66), the word *commence* most closely means:
 - A. To make a comment.
 - B. To like someone.
 - C. To begin or start.
 - D. Commerce.
3. In the sentence, "MAMA *stops and looks at both of her children and rises slowly and wanders vaguely, aimlessly away from them*" (p. 129), the word *vaguely* most closely means
 - A. Like a homeless person.
 - B. Not clear, definite, or decided.
 - C. Purposefully.
 - D. Without age.
4. In the sentence, "She flies to get it amid the general bustling of the family..." the word *bustling* most closely means
 - A. A large chest.
 - B. Busy activity.
 - C. Crying.
 - D. Grouping.
5. Mama received the \$10,000 check because
 - A. She won the Illinois lottery.
 - B. She sued a former employer and won the money in court.
 - C. She inherited the money after the death of a rich aunt.
 - D. It's her late husband's life insurance settlement.

6. Place the following events from the play in chronological order:

1. Asagai asks Beneatha to go to Africa with him.
2. Bobo comes to tell Walter that the money is gone.
3. Ruth, Beneatha, Walter and Travis give Mama their gifts.
4. The Youngers leave the apartment for their new home.
5. Walter plans to take Mr. Lindner's money.

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- B. 2, 3, 1, 5, 4
- C. 3, 2, 1, 5, 4
- D. 5, 3, 2, 1, 4

7. Put the following events from the play in sequential order:

1. Mama buys a house.
2. Mama receives a check for \$10,000.
3. Ruth finds out that she is pregnant.
4. The Clybourne Park Improvement Association tries to stop them from moving.
5. Walter loses most of the family's money in a bad investment scheme.

- A. 3, 2, 1, 4, 5
- B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- C. 5, 1, 4, 3, 2
- D. 2, 3, 1, 4, 5

8. The play is set in the Younger apartment in

- A. New York, New York, in the 1950s.
- B. Chicago, Illinois in the 1950s.
- C. Chicago, Illinois in 1999.
- D. Chicago, Illinois in 1919.

9. The word that best defines the mood at the end of the play is

- A. Depressed.
- B. Excited.
- C. Hopeful.
- D. Lonely.

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10. Travis gives his grandmother
- A. A large gardening hat.
 - B. A new plant for the new house.
 - C. A set of gardening tools.
 - D. A set of pots and pans.
11. Walter lost all of Mama's remaining money because
- A. He decided to bet it all on the Chicago Bears' game, and they lost.
 - B. He gave it to Willy to bribe state officials in Springfield, and Willy stole it.
 - C. He invested the money in his liquor store, and it went out of business.
 - D. He lost it in the street on the way to the bank.
12. What business does Walter hope to open with some of Mama's money?
- A. A liquor store.
 - B. A limousine rental service.
 - C. A dry cleaner.
 - D. A donut store.
13. What has Walter been doing instead of going to work?
- A. Driving or walking around, then getting drunk at a neighborhood club.
 - B. Hanging out at the racetrack, betting on horses.
 - C. Looking for a new job that doesn't involve being a servant.
 - D. Spending time with a woman who is not his wife.
14. What is the origin of the title "A Raisin in the Sun"
- A. It comes from the song "I Heard it Through the Grapevine."
 - B. It is a line in the poem "A Dream Deferred," by Langston Hughes.
 - C. It is what Walter says he feels like when he loses the money.
 - D. It is what Asagai looks like after spending time outside.
15. What news does Mrs. Johnson bring to the Youngers?
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 - B. Mrs. Johnson is also planning to move to Clybourne Park.
 - C. Beneatha is hiding a secret pregnancy from her mother.
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 - D. A group of people joined for a common purpose.
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 - C. Leave her family and travel the world.
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20. Why are Ruth, Walter, and Beneatha worried about the house Mama has purchased in Clybourne Park?
- A. They think the house is much too expensive.
 - B. They don’t want to live so far away from their friends.
 - C. Only white people live in Clybourne Park.
 - D. Clybourne Park is a known gang neighborhood.

Answer Keys

Week 1 Assessment

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. D
6. A
7. A
8. C
9. C
10. B

Week 2 Assessment

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. C

Final Assessment

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. C
10. A
11. B
12. A
13. A
14. B
15. D
16. D
17. D
18. D
19. B
20. C