***A Raisin in the Sun***

**Guiding Questions Scene 1**

*As you watch the film, answer these questions. They’ll help you think about plot, character, themes, and symbols, which will all be useful in writing your synthesis essay. Here is a link to the* [*film on YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKj7wcuY6X8&t=3569s)*.*

*You can make a copy of these questions, answer them, and then submit them to turnitin.com.*

*I’ve split the film up into roughly 30-minute scenes. You could watch one a day or watch more than one at a time. It would be a good idea, though, to stop the film at the markers on this sheet and answer the questions as you go.*

Name:

**Beginning of movie to :14.40**

1. In the opening scene, we see Lena commute to her job at someone else’s home in the suburbs. How do the details of this scene, along with the details we see of the Younger family’s apartment, help us understand the world these characters inhabit?

2. The family is waiting to receive a $10,000 life insurance check, and it becomes clear that this money is a conflict, however the money is a proxy for other, underlying conflicts. What conflicts besides the money seem to exist between Walter and his wife Ruth and Walter and his sister Beneatha in this opening scene? How is money a part of those conflicts?

**:14:40-:22.10**

3. Here we see Walter, Lena, and Beneatha interacting in the outside world--Walter at his job, Lena at her job and at grocery stores, and Beneatha at college. How do Walter and Lena’s experiences shed light on larger conflicts? How is Beneatha’s experience outside the house different from Walter’s and Lena’s?

**:22.10-:34.30**

4. How is Beneatha’s worldview different from both Ruth and Lena’s and how does the filmmaker convey these differences?

5. What conflicts does this different worldview lead to?

6. After Beneatha leaves, Ruth tells Lena that Beneatha said she was sorry, even though Beneatha did not apologize. What does this reveal about Ruth’s character?

7. Although at the beginning of the film, Ruth told Walter she wasn’t comfortable interfering with Lena’s decisions about the money, here she does exactly what Walter asked her to do. What does this reveal about Ruth’s character?

8. At this point in the film:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Walter | Beneatha | Lena | Ruth |
| Personality Trait |  |  |  |  |
| Goal or Desire |  |  |  |  |
| Conflict |  |  |  |  |