

## **Annotated Bibliography**

Jeffries, Devair. "Black Feminine Identity: An Examination of Historical and Contemporary Dramatic Texts through a Critical Race Theory Framework." 1537657 University of South Carolina, 2013. Ann Arbor: *ProQuest*. Web. 3 Oct. 2016.

Devair Jeffrie's dissertation on African American women and identity gives a very thorough analysis of the role of black women during a time of racism and misogyny not only within the greater American society, but also within the African American community. Given the context of the play and the author's central theme, the dissertation is primarily focused on the ways in which black women interact with black men and are inhibited by societal limitations of race and gender. The author approaches this subject by looking at the characters, Beneath, Mama and Ruth. The dissertation is in essence the basis of my entire project. The only difference is that this dissertation only tackles women's roles, in my project I am examining both women and men's roles. I will be using this to gather additional evidence and research as well as a guide for my own argument.

Lockhart, Lana N. "Emasculation and Emancipation: African American Masculinity in African American Women's Literature, 1955-1985." 3718130 Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2015. Ann Arbor: *ProQuest*. Web. 3 Oct. 2016.

This dissertation is very similar in scope to the previous dissertation except it centers on black masculinity and how it is observed in the eyes of black women. This dissertation takes an interesting approach to the idea of black masculinity because it highlights the voice behind the male characters of the play which, ironically, is not a man. After reading this thesis, I can add some complexity to my argument by further exploring this idea. I will work to connect these various ideas and ironies in my project by also focusing on the struggles of black men, not just black women. The author of this dissertation says that men are often times made powerless by white America, and are overlooked by the black community. This thesis can be used for evidence and discussion points on masculinity in context of the play and the Civil Rights movement as well as more current issues that black men face regarding masculinity, like power imbalances and isolation from their community.

Brown, Lloyd W. "Lorraine Hansberry as Ironist: A Reappraisal of *A Raisin in the Sun*." *Journal of Black Studies* 4.3 (1974): 237-47. Web. 3 Oct. 2016

This source begins with a series of positive and negative critiques of the play. One critic says that Hansberry lacked the creative and intellectual skills necessary for writing a proper dramatic play. The critic believes that Hansberry failed to appropriately illustrate the plight of black Americans in recounting the community's struggles. Another critic has a very different view of the play by expressing opinions of the play that are in favor of its historical importance and praise Hansberry's abilities. The last critic in this passage of the book takes a more neutral stance by only interpreting the play's literary merits. In other words, this last critic is impartial to social justice and race; their judgement of the play is solely focused on Hansberry's ability to make a well-crafted play. This source reveals some compelling arguments that challenge my initial thoughts on the play. By applying this research to my project I can add a level of complexity to my main argument. I find it interesting that some people believe the play did not adequately express the struggles African Americans once faced. In my exhibit I will further explore this viewpoint and attempt to use the play along with my other sources to effectively display African American's past and current struggles up to the standards of that critic.

Cooper, David D. "Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*." *The Explicator* 52.1 (1993): 59. *ProQuest*. Web. 3 Oct. 2016.

This scholarly journal on *A Raisin in the Sun* summarizes the plot of the play as it pertains to one of the main characters, Beneatha. Discussing the play from a broad perspective, the journal begins by talking about the Younger family and their quest for social mobility. Soon after the conflict of the play is summarized, which is Walter's unsuccessful investment, the text's focus transitions to Beneatha. From the subsequent objective analysis of Beneatha and her character development throughout the play, I get an even better sense of her role in the play and how she relates to my project's focus on identity. This source is helpful not only because it describes Beneatha's journey of self-discovery, but also because it directs me to some key passages and parts of the play that could be very helpful to me. After carefully reading this source I now have some additional examples of identity struggles as well as specific analysis of

Beneatha and her motivations, goals, and internal conflicts. I anticipate that I will look at this source frequently as I continue working on my exhibit because Beneatha is one of the two characters from the play my project centers on.

Reed, Christopher Robert. "Toward the Apex of Civil Rights Activism: Antecedents of the Chicago Freedom Movement, 1965–1966." *The Chicago Freedom Movement: Martin Luther King Jr. and Civil Rights Activism in the North*. Ed. Mary Lou Finley, Bernard LaFayette, James R. Ralph, and Pam Smith. By Clayborne Carson. U of Kentucky, 2016. 100-12. Web. 3 Oct. 2016.

This book gives historical context for the play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. In great detail, this passage from the book tells the history of Chicago from the last years of the Great Depression to the Civil Rights movement. Chicago, during that time, is where Lorraine Hansberry grew up and where the play takes place. This source vividly illustrates what Chicago was like both in the black community and beyond the black community during the Civil Rights movement. The book speaks of the strident steps African Americans took towards improving their rights like the Chicago NAACP, boycotts, and court cases. Although this does not directly pertain to my focus on identity, this source is still very important because it provides me with a framework for interpreting the play and the possible reasons behind its creation. After reading this source, I have a better understanding of the historical setting of the play.