

The American Dream is an important idea in the American culture. However, it can be perceived very differently by people of different social status and according to their own ideals and aspirations. The American Dream plays an important role in the lives of African Americans in the mid 20th century. Their persistent struggles towards their dream and their fight for freedom, equality and higher social status are all examples of the various ways they used to try to achieve their dreams. Despite their continuous efforts toward their dreams, the American Dream was still out of reach for the general African American population. During this time period, many famous literature works emerged that describe their struggles.

“A Raisin in the Sun”, a play centered around the American Dream and written by the female African American writer Lorraine Hansberry, is one of the most famous Broadway plays in the mid 20th century. It dramatically depicts the vastly different dreams and ideals of each member of the Younger family, and how each character acted according to their dreams.

This exhibit illustrates how African Americans in the 20th century, like the family in “A Raisin in the Sun”, pursued their American Dreams.