**Guided Talk**

*Directions: In your group, choose one question per section to discuss. Write your group’s answers to the questions on one person’s computer. Everyone must contribute their own answers, but answers can be decided on together. Each answer should be 3-4 sentences.*

**Plot**

1. What is the central conflict of the play, and how is it built up and then resolved?
2. Does the play follow a traditional dramatic structure? What is the climax, and what is your evaluation of its effectiveness in turning the plot? Evaluate the resolution, if there is one.
3. What subplots are in the play, and how do they contribute toward your understanding of the main plot? Do any of the subplots get resolved? If so, how?

**Characters**

1. Who is the protagonist, and what are this character’s defining characteristics? How was the character revealed or changed throughout the play?
2. Is the antagonist a person, an event, or an environment? How does the protagonist deal with the conflict the antagonist creates?
3. How do the secondary characters contribute to the development of the protagonist? What are their most defining characteristics?
4. Compare and contrast the dreams of Walter, Mama, Beneatha, and Ruth. Which one of these characters do you find most admirable and why?

**Setting**

1. How was the setting of the tiny, cramped apartment important to the plot and characters? How does the setting – especially the author’s distinctions on the lighting of the area – help you understand these elements of the play?
2. Do you think the play, written in 1958, is still relevant today, as it is written? Do you think this play could be adapted to a different time period effectively? Why or why not?

**Theme**

1. What would you say the theme of this play is? Why? What is one part that exemplifies the theme?
2. Some have said the play promotes the more materialistic side of the American Dream. Do you agree or disagree and why?
3. Others have said the play promotes the idea that blacks should want to assimilate. Do you agree or disagree and why?

**Misc.**

1. The title comes from the poem “Harlem (A Dream Deferred)” by Langston Hughes that we read earlier. Why do you think Hansberry chose this phrase for her title?