**Character Chart**

*Directions: After each reading of the play, add information about each character’s traits and actions. Be specific.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Physical Traits** | **Personality Traits** | **Actions** |
| **Ruth**  **Younger**  **(3-5)** |  |  |  |
| **Walter Lee Younger**  **(3-5)** |  |  |  |
| **Travis**  **Younger**  **(3)** |  |  |  |
| **Beneatha**  **Younger**  **(3-5)** |  |  |  |
| **Lena**  **Younger**  **(3-5)** |  |  |  |
| **Joseph**  **Asagai**  **(3)** |  |  |  |
| **George Murchison**  **(3)** |  |  |  |
| **Mrs. Johnson**  **(2)** |  |  |  |
| **Karl Linder**  **(3)** |  |  |  |
| **Bobo**  **(2)** |  |  |  |
| **Willy Harris**  **(1)** |  |  |  |

### Act I, Scene II

**Bio Poem Activity**

“The most extraordinary human being has within him elements of profundity – of profound anguish … Every human being is in enormous conflict about something.” – Lorraine Hansberry

**Directions:**

Hansberry’s dynamic characterization is one of the most striking elements in her play. Choose a character (Walter Lee, Ruth, Mama, or Beneatha), and write a 10-line Bio Poem that captures his or her role in the play. Go beyond the obvious – what does your character dream about? Does he or she work for personal benefit or the good of the family? In 10 lines, try to describe clearly your character to someone who has not read the play.

**Bio Poem Outline:**

Line 1: First Name

Line 2: Four descriptive traits (adjectives)

Line 3: Sibling, Husband, Wife, Mother, etc of…

Line 4: Lover of … 3 things

Line 5: Who feels … 3 things

Line 6: Who needs … 3 things

Line 7: Who fears … 3 things

Line 8: Who would like to … 3 things

Line 9: Resident of … City, State

Line 10: Last name

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Poem:**

### Act I, Scene I

1. Who are Willy and Bobo?

1. Why was Mama getting a check for $10,000?

1. Why did Beneatha say she wouldn’t marry George?

1. What happened to Ruth at the end of Act I, Scene I?

1. What is your favorite quote from the play thus far? (Include speaker and page number)

### Act I, Scene II

1. Who is Joseph Asagai?

1. What did Ruth find out at the doctor’s office?

1. Why is Asagai’s present to Beneatha appropriate?

1. Why is Asagai’s nickname appropriate?

1. What does Mama say is “dangerous”?
2. Where did Ruth actually go instead of the doctor’s office?
3. Why did Mama call Walter a disgrace to his father’s memory?

**Act II, Scene I**

1. What was Beneatha’s family doing when George came in?

1. What are “assimilationist Negroes”?

1. What did Mama do with her money?

1. What was Walter’s reaction to Mama’s purchase? Ruth’s reaction?

**Act II, Scene II**

1. How did Ruth find out Walter hadn’t been going to work?

1. Where had Walter been going instead of to work?

1. What did Mama do for Walter?

**Act II, Scene III**

1. Who is Karl Lindner, and why does he visit the Younger’s house?

1. What is Walter’s reaction to Lindner?

1. What presents did Mama get?

1. What news did Bobo bring to Walter?

### Mama’s Plant (Symbolism)

**Directions:**

1. Read pages: 39, 52-53, 121, 139, and 151. What do these scenes have in common? What words are used to describe Mama?

1. What does Mama’s plant symbolize? Why?

1. How does Mama’s plant relate to the idea of the American Dream?

**End of Play Prediction**

Write a short (5 sentence) prediction about what you think will happen in the last act of the play. Don’t forget to explain why you have made this prediction (foreshadowing, historical connection, etc).

### Act III

1. Why didn’t Beneatha want to be a doctor anymore?

1. How did Asagai define “idealist” and “realists”?

1. What does Asagai ask Beneatha to do?

1. What fault does Mama find with herself?

1. What solution does Walter have?

1. Why didn’t Walter take the money Lindner offered?