

First & Last Name

Professor Martin

ENGL1302.WS3

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*A Raisin in the Sun: An Annotated Bibliography*

**Source #1**

**A. CITATION**

Anderson, Mary Louise. "Black Matriarchy: Portrayals of Women in Three Plays." *Negro American Literature Forum* 10.3 (1976): 93-95. JSTOR. Web. 25 Oct. 2009.

**B. SUMMARY**

**1. What is the main argument of the resource?**

One argument of this article is strong matriarchal black women possess stereotypical tendencies.

**2. How does the author support his/her position?**

The author supports her argument by providing what she feels are tendencies found in typical black matriarchs that are present in the plays examined in the article. The author's feelings are not supported by statistics but by comparison of the matriarchal figures in the plays to her list of matriarchal tendencies.

**3. What are some details that support the argument?**

The author provides a list of three stereotypical patterns and applies those patterns to the matriarchs of three plays, including Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*.

**C. EVALUATION**

This article provides a clear view of the matriarch character of Lena from *A Raisin in the Sun*. The view presented by the author coincides with my views and provides a solid foundation for my essay. The author uses the word “stereotype” but not in a negative way in which the word is typically used. The author does suggest black women have moved into the matriarchal role by white society. I do not believe I will be touching on this aspect in my essay but I found the suggestion very interesting.

## **Source #2**

### **A. CITATION**

Carter, Steven R. “Images of Men Lorraine Hansberry’s Writing.” *Black American Literature Forum* 19.4 (1985): 160-162. ProjectMuse. Web. 25 Oct. 2009.

### **B. SUMMARY**

#### **1. What is the main argument of the resource?**

The main argument of this article discusses complex male characters and their effects on the female characters.

#### **2. How does the author support his/her position?**

The author supports his argument by providing examples of intentional and unintentional oppression of female characters by male characters. The author’s writing is not supported by statistics but by the actions of the male characters that are examined in this article.

#### **3. What are some details that support the argument?**

The author provides examples of how Walter Lee reacts to his feeling of being pressured by society to be successful and support his family in *A Raisin in the Sun*. The article demonstrates how Walter Lee’s attitude towards his family changes when his financial situation is evolving.

## C. EVALUATION

This article discusses the pressures placed on Walter Lee by society and his family. It also discusses his evolution from an unwilling family participant to becoming the patriarch of the Younger family.

### Source #3

#### A. CITATION

Molette, Barbara J. "Black Heroes and Afrocentric Values in Theatre." *Journal of Black Studies* 15.4 (1985): 447-462. JSTOR Web. 25 Oct. 2009.

#### B. SUMMARY

##### 1. What is the main argument of the resource?

An argument of this article is how most view *A Raisin in the Sun* as being ruled by Lena (matriarch) but the family is actually ruled by Walter Lee (patriarch) who is not known as the hero of the play.

##### 2. How does the author support his/her position?

The author supports her argument by comparing the actions of Walter Lee to an African tribal chief. The author's writing is not supported by information on a specific African tribe but through the actions of Walter Lee.

##### 3. What are some details that support the argument?

The author provides examples of how the respect shown to Lena (mother) is incorrectly attributed as respect towards the head of the family. According to the author, the head of the family is Walter Lee. The author compares the actions of Walter Lee to those of African tribes. Although not providing specific tribe information, the general notion is the chief of the tribe

(Walter) consults with the tribal elders (Lena) when making important decisions that affect the tribe (family).

### **C. EVALUATION**

This article provides a great example of a non-traditional view of *A Raisin in the Sun* which is traditionally considered a play about a strong matriarch. The author considers this a play about a young and emerging patriarch, Walter Lee, who eventually comes through for his family after adjusting to the changes brought on by the death of his father.