**American Dream: Illusion or Reality?**

After we read texts that focus, either directly or indirectly, on the American Dream, you will write an essay that answers the question “Is the American Dream an illusion or a reality?” You will use evidence from at least four texts to support your answer, and you must use *A Raisin in the Sun*. In order to prepare for your essay, use this chart to help you map out your essay.

Texts: *The Great Gatsby, A* *Raisin in the Sun, The Pursuit of Happyness*, “Chicago” (824), “Lucinda Matlock” (827), “Richard Cory” (830), “Miniver Cheevy” (832), “We Wear the Mask” (835), “Sympathy” (837), “America and I” (863) and “In The American Society” (877).

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| Text | Character | Illusion or Reality? | Evidence/Support | Evidence/Support |
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Questions to Consider:

- Does the speaker/character achieve the American Dream?

- Based on the character/speaker’s experiences, is it possible to achieve the American Dream?

- Is the character/speaker happy?

- Does the character/speaker keep/maintain the American Dream?

- Is the character/speaker trapped in his/her position, or is he/she free to pursue the American Dream?

- Is the character/speaker treated equally?

- Does the character/speaker have the same economic opportunities as others?