Name: Date: Period:

Fishbowl Discussion for *A Raisin in The Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

1. Who are the idealists in the play? Who are the realists? Is anyone a well-balanced blend of both?
2. Bennie struggles to “find herself” throughout the play. Why is this important to the development of her character? Does she seem to “find herself?” Explain.
3. Why does Mama not fully share in her family’s excitement about getting the check?
4. What is the difference between what George Murchison wants for Beneatha and what Joseph Asagai wants for her? How do they each reveal the true character of Beneatha?
5. The four main characters, Mama, Walter, Beneatha and Ruth drive the events of this play; characterization plays an extremely important role. Who would you consider to be the most important character in the play? Why?
6. Explain how the following ideas: resistance, persuasion, and the American dream, are represented in *A Raisin in the Sun*.
7. How does Beneatha represent a new generation of American dreamers? What is she seeking beyond material success?
8. How does the play develop the theme of progress, moving forward, in giant leaps as well as in smaller steps? What perspective does the character of Joseph Asagai bring with regard to progress?
9. How do faith and family help the Youngers to transcend external obstacles?