



 Prestwick House

Free Lesson Plan

POETRY:

A Raisin in the Sun “I am” Poem

CCSS.ELA-Writing: W.4, W.5
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Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Synthesize character traits in an original poem related to *A Raisin in the Sun*

Time:

Approximately 60 minutes or 2 class periods

Materials:

Copy of *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry

Handout #1: Directions

Handout #2: Sample poem



Procedure:

1. Make sure each student has a copy of *A Raisin in the Sun*.
2. Students should work independently but may collaborate with another student.
3. Explain what an “I Am” poem is and how to create one. Give students Handout #1 and Handout #2.
4. Consider using the completed “I Am” poems as part of a class discussion. Some students may enjoy presenting and sharing their poems.

Note:

This lesson works best as a post-reading activity.

A Raisin in the Sun

“I am” Poem

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**Handout 1****Directions***A Raisin in the Sun*
“I am” Poem

An “I Am” poem is a personal poem because it describes a character’s thoughts, feelings, situations, and traits. This poem provides you a chance to write about a character from *A Raisin in the Sun* and the character’s experiences by responding to writing prompts from his or her perspective.

Step 1: Pick one character from *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Step 2: Answer the prompts to create your poem. Remember to answer the prompts from the perspective of the character you chose. You may use direct quotations from the play or your own words to answer the prompts.

Line 1: Begin with the words “I am.”

Line 2: Write three nouns that your character has strong feelings about.

Line 3: Write a complete sentence about two things your character likes.

Line 4: Begin with three nouns that describe qualities your character appreciates in other people. End with the words “are important to me.”

Line 5: Write a sentence explaining something positive your character likes about himself or herself.

Line 6-7: Begin a sentence in Line 6 in which you show something negative that your character sees in himself/herself or in others. Finish the sentence in Line 7 by showing that out of something bad can come something good. Use the word *but* or *however* to link the two ideas.

Lines 8–10: Write three short sentences explaining things your character has strong feelings about, either positive or negative.

Line 11: End the poem with the words “I am _____.”

Step 3: Review your poem. Revise word choices and punctuation to make sure the poem accurately and thoroughly reflects the character’s personality and perspective. Read it out loud to check for any mistakes.

A Raisin in the Sun

“I am” Poem

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Handout 2

Sample Poem

A Raisin in the Sun
“I am Travis” Poem

I am
caps, balls, and bats.
I like playing and working after school.
Strength, love, and kindness are important to me.
I am polite even when it is hard to be.
I can be grumpy,
but I come around when people are sweet to me.
I love my mama and daddy and grandma.
I would like to live in a house someday.
I want to be just like my daddy.
I am Travis.

POETRY:

A Raisin in the Sun

“I am” Poem

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Standards:

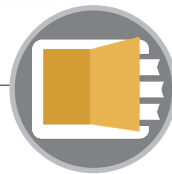
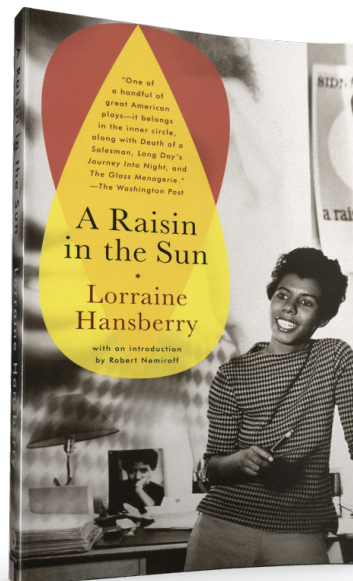
Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-Writing: W.4, W.5

References:

A Raisin in the Sun, First Vintage Books edition, copyright December 1994.

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