

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

What do you think of the characters? Who do you relate to?

I would like you all to think about what the characters represent. Take for instance the three main women, Bennie, Ruth and Lena. Lena represents the old fashioned life where women should marry and have kids and not aspire to anything else. Bennie, wanting to be a doctor, represents a new type of woman: educated, enlightened, trying to discover the world and wanting to make something of herself. And Ruth is somewhere in the middle of both of these. Can you expand on this thought?

The three characters mentioned above are the absolute perfect examples of what stereotyping has been, was and is now in this day and age. Lena is the mother of the house and is very old fashioned i agree very much with your analysis here. She likes to tell everyone what to do and how to do it. Since her husbands passing she took control. The play goes on to show how she relents this title to her son. Ruth is a typical over worked underpaid, working woman. She falls in the middle of the stereotype that is laid out for woman because we see she has to cook and clean, yet she still has to go out and work. Bennie, has a completely different belief of what woman are capable of. However, she still has a fight her own identity, with regards to her heritage. She is living in a colonial time and is following the westernised ways. She goes out with George who is very modern westernised. Then there is Asagai who directs her to her heritage. So here we see a modern woman that still has a longing to know where she came from. All three woman are very different and come from different generations. Therefore, they all have different opinions.

Yes, you seem to really understand the characters. Well done.

I can relate to aspects of all three of the women in this play. Lena, because I am a mature woman, on the brink of turning 50 and I often feel as though my way is THE way and wish that my daughters and sister would see things from my point of view. Like Lena, I too want what is best for my family. I can also identify with Ruth because I do not think that her life turned out quite the way that she had hoped it would. I think that she has experienced many disappointments and has lost hope and confidence in her husband's ability to improve their situation. However she does seem to have the ability to see the upside of things and has not totally given up. She is resourceful and will make the most out of whatever situation she finds herself in. As for Beneatha, she is not content to live the sort of life that her mother and sister-in-law have lived and is keen to do things differently. She is ambitious but also eager to learn about heritage. I relate to Beneatha's spirit to embrace change and take steps towards creating a more fulfilling life for herself.

I think that is what makes this play so timeless. We can all relate to the characters on some level, even though it is removed in time and place and even gender and race. It is a very human and relatable story.