

KEY CONCEPTS

Please define the following and try to show how each relate to at least two of your prescribed texts:

- Representation
- Patriarchy
- Identity
- Stereotypes
- Feminism
- Gender
- Race
- Contact Zones
- Modernity
- Class
- Resistance

Hi there,

Apologies for the late response. I am hoping you can still look at this and advise if I have defined all the concepts correctly, as well as relating them to the novels.

- 1) **Representation** - To resemble something, to stand-in for something/some-one or to represent meaning.

Nervous Conditions - First-person narrator of early youth, autobiographical, inclusion of exact historical dates, specific places names, cultural realities in former Rhodesia makes story more authentic.

A Raisin in the Sun - Lorraine Hansberry takes from her family history and dramatises an aspect of their struggle for a home in a segregated, racially-restrictive community.

2. **Patriarchy** - Refers to a system of practices and structures in which men have more power than women, and are able to use their power to dominate and oppress women.

Nervous Conditions - Tambu and Nhama are treated differently according to the patriarchal system e.g. Nhamo is given priority over Tambu in receiving a education, as Tambu is expected as a women to get married and have children.

A Raisin in the Sun - Similarly, Walter Jnr. Says to Beneatha when she aspires to become a doctor, she should either become a nurse or get married and have children like a normal woman.

3. **Identity** - Shaped by different factors: race, gender and class.

Nervous Conditions - Tambu's identity, her struggle to make sense of her life in the various contexts she experiences. She struggles to understand who she is.

A Raisin in the Sun - The politics of identity, such as Beneatha embracing her African heritage with her appearance, which George Murchison disapproves of. There are also the cross-class conflicts with George Murchison being one of the "rich coloureds", compared to the Younger family who are poor.

4. **Stereotypes** - Categorising a group of people by a particular idea or belief: race, gender or class.

Nervous Conditions - Black people are stereotyped by being inferior and were treated differently, sometimes harshly. The brainwashing of the education system by the colonisers is an example of this.

A Raisin in the Sun - Similarly, black people were seen as inferior. They were not worthy of living in the same area as white people, or having the same job opportunities.

5. **Feminism** - A political position on equality of the sexes.

Nervous Conditions - Tambu feels she also deserves to be educated even though she is a woman, where Nhamo is given the opportunity because he is a male. She is determined to return to school without the help of her parents, by receiving the help from her teacher to raise money by selling mielies at the station.

A Raisin in the Sun - There is Beneatha's aspiration to become a doctor, even though Walter Jr. disapproves of this notion of a woman pursuing a career.

6. **Gender** - State of being male or female used with reference of social and cultural differences, rather than biological ones.

Nervous Conditions - Women are expected to cook and perform household duties as well as bring up children, rather than pursuing careers or educating themselves.

A Raisin in the Sun - Lena and Ruth work as domestics, which are female occupations, Walter Lee a driver. Same scenario, where women are expected to do household duties and rear children, rather than pursue careers.

7. **Race** - Grouping people by physical markers: Skin colour, hair and facial features.

Nervous Conditions - Black people were treated inferiorly, brainwashed in education.

A Raisin in the Sun - Coloured people were segregated from white people, lived in different areas.

8. **Contact Zones** - Social spaces where cultures meet, clash and grapple with each other - colonialism.

Nervous Conditions - The Sacred Heart College Tambu goes to, treated differently.

A Raisin in the Sun - Where the Younger family bought property in a whites only area in Clybourne Park.

9. **Modernity** - Colonial encounter referred to as beginning of modernity, where the coloniser and the colonised begin to get entangled.

Nervous Conditions - Separate facilities, housing and basic services.

A Raisin in the Sun - There were segregated areas for coloureds and whites to reside in.

10. **Class** - Social class is defined by the economic structure of society e.g. working class who sell their labour.

Nervous Conditions - Tambu's family are part of the working class, farmers. Babamakuru and Maiguru are educated and have more prominent roles in society.

A Raisin in the Sun - The Younger family are regarded as the working class; they all sell their labour for money.