

# Unit 07: A Raisin in the Sun

Content Area: **Language Arts**  
Course(s): **AP Eng Lang C**  
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**  
Length: **3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

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Please see list of standards for more details under the anchor standards. Please note that additional standards can be applied to any unit.

ELA.L	Language
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1	Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.A	Use parallel structure.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.B	Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.C	Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.D	Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.E	Recognize spelling conventions.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2	Apply knowledge of language to make effective choices for meaning, or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, writing, speaking or listening.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.A	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.B	Vary word choice and sentence structure to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of language.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.C	Demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.D	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.E	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings, including connotative meanings.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how

the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone; how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).

ELA.R

Reading

ELA.RL.CR.9–10.1

Cite a range of thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to strongly support analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly and inferentially, as well as including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

ELA.RL.CI.9–10.2

Determine one or more themes of a literary text and analyze how it is developed and refined over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

ELA.RL.IT.9–10.3

Analyze how an author unfolds and develops ideas throughout a text, including how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

ELA.RL.TS.9–10.4

Analyze how an author's choices concerning the structure of a text, order of the events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulation of time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create specific effects (e.g., mystery, tension, or surprise).

ELA.RL.PP.9–10.5

Determine an author's lens in a text (including cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature) and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance a point of view.

ELA.RL.MF.9–10.6

Analyze, integrate, and evaluate multiple interpretations (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry) of a single text or text/s presented in different formats (visually, quantitatively).

ELA.RL.CT.9–10.8

Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on, develops, or transforms source material historical and literary significance (e.g., how a modern author treats a theme or topic from mythology or a religious text) and how they relate in terms of themes and significant concepts.

ELA.W

Writing

ELA.W.AW.9–10.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient textual and non-textual evidence.

ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.A

Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.B

Develop claim(s) and counterclaims using sound reasoning, supplying data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.

ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.C

Use transitions (e.g., words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.

ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.D

Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.E

Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented.

ELA.SL

Speaking and Listening

ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.A

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the

	topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.B	Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g., student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
ELA.SL.AS.9–10.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.3	Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.5	Research career opportunities in the United States and abroad that require knowledge of world languages and diverse cultures.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS2	Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
TECH.8.1.12.D.1	Demonstrate appropriate application of copyright, fair use and/or Creative Commons to an original work.

## **Enduring Understandings**

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Students will understand the following:

The American Dream has meant different things to different people over the years.

Writers will often write about what they know and what is meaningful to them.

Recurring themes will be found in plays, poems, novels, short stories, and nonfiction.

One's background and experiences will determine how one resolves struggles and overcomes adversity.

Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.

Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing arguments.

Writers guide understanding of a text's line of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence.

The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.

## **Essential Questions**

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What is the American Dream?

Why do authors blend personal experience into their art?

How do texts "talk" to each other?

How do gender, class and age influence characters' different reactions to their shared conflict?

How do writers make strategic choices based on particular situations to prove an argument?

How do we determine the speaker's subject, claim, and evidence within a piece? How do we determine the validity of the subject's argument in that piece?

How do we follow a line of reasoning within a nonfiction text?

What effect does the rhetorical situation have on stylistic choices the writer makes?

## **Knowledge and Skills**

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Students will be able to do the following:

Students will learn about how Greek theatre influences modern day performance.

Students will be able to discuss the role of a chorus in Greek tragedy as a means to convey the significance of scenes.

Students will understand that ancient Greek theatre is not only a form of entertainment but also a source of moral and religious instruction.

Students will consider how decisions made in leadership roles can influence both personal and public outcomes.

From the AP Language and Composition Course and Exam Description, 2020 College Board:

Skill Category 1: Rhetorical Situation - Reading (Explain how writers' choices reflect the components of the rhetorical situation.)

1.A. Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.

1.B. Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.

Skill Category 2: Rhetorical Situation - Writing (Make strategic choices in a text to address a rhetorical situation.)

2.A. Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation.

2.B. Demonstrate an understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.

Skill Category 3: Claims and Evidence - Reading (Identify and describe the claims and evidence of an argument.)

3.A. Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.

3.B. Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument's structure.

3.C. Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.

Skill Category 4: Claims and Evidence - Writing (Analyze and select evidence to develop and refine a claim.)

4.A. Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.

4.B. Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.

4.C. Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives.

Skill Category 5: Reasoning and Organization - Reading (Describe the reasoning, organization, and development of an argument.)

5.A. Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument's overarching thesis.

5.B. Explain how the organization of a text creates unity and coherence and reflects a line of reasoning.

5.C. Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.

Skill Category 6: Reasoning and Organization - Writing (Use organization and commentary to illuminate the line of reasoning in an argument.)

6.A. Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument.

6.B. Use transitional elements to guide the reader through the line of reasoning of an argument.

6.C. Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.

Skill Category 7: Style - Reading (Explain how writers' stylistic choices contribute to the purpose of an argument.)

7.A. Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.

7.B. Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas.

7.C. Explain how grammar and mechanics contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of an argument.

Skill Category 8: Style - Writing (Select words and use elements of composition to advance an argument.)

8.A. Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.

8.B. Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.

8.C. Use established conventions of grammar and mechanics to communicate clearly and effectively.

## **Additional Resources**

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**Core Text:** *A Raisin in the Sun* - Lorraine Hansberry

**Core Poem:** "Harlem" - Langston Hughes

### **Additional Resources:**

Hansberry vs. Lee Case Brief

Selections from The Harlem Renaissance

-Selected poems - Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay

-Essays - A. Locke, W. Thurman, C.G. Woodson, J. Fauset

-Federal Writers Project - Unchained memories (LOC slave narratives project)

-Speeches - A. Garvey, M. Garvey. A. Powell, W.E.B. DuBois

-"How It Feels To Be Colored Me" Zora Neale Hurston

## **Poetry**

"Mending Wall" - Robert Frost

"Acquainted with the Night" - Robert Frost

## **Non-Fiction**

"The Declaration of Independence" - Thomas Jefferson

"Just Walk On By: A Black Man Ponders His Power to Alter Public Space" - Brent Staples (*Harper's Magazine*)

"In Search of Our Mother's Garden" - Alice Walker

"My First Conk" - Malcolm X

"What's in a Name?" - Henry Louis Gates Jr.

"People Like Us" - David Brooks