

Hansberry, Lorraine (1930-1965)

Encyclopedia Article

Hansberry, Lorraine (1930-1965)

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Hansberry, Lorraine (1930-1965) Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Hansberry, Lorraine (1930-1965).....	3

Hansberry, Lorraine (1930-1965)

A black American playwright who produced only two plays before her death from cancer at 34, Lorraine Hansberry nonetheless made a tremendous contribution to the American stage and to African American culture. Her first and best known play, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959), winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, is now considered a landmark of American drama. The story of the struggling Younger family, who aspire to a better life, *A Raisin in the Sun* was the first Broadway production by a black woman, and its commercial success opened the stage doors to other black writers. *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, Hansberry's challenging but commercially disappointing second play, followed in 1964. Posthumously produced plays *To Be Young, Black, and Gifted* (1969), *Les Blancs* (1970), and *What Use Are Flowers?* (1972), adapted by her ex-husband and literary executor Robert Nemiroff, confirm Hansberry's great ability to combine artistic integrity and skill with commitment to social reform.

Further Reading:

Carter, Steven R. *Hansberry's Drama: Commitment amid Complexity*. Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1991.

Cheney, Anne. *Lorraine Hansberry*. Boston, Twayne, 1984.

Leeson, Richard M. *Lorraine Hansberry: A Research and Production Sourcebook*. Westport, Connecticut Greenwood, 1997.

Scheader, Catherine. *They Found a Way: Lorraine Hansberry*. Chicago, Children's Press, 1978.