Student’s Name

Professor’s Name

Course

Date

**A Raisin in the Sun by Hansberry**

Segregation and discrimination based on race were still common in the 1950s in most societies. Lorraine Hansberry’s play, A Raisin in the Sun, was written in 1959 in response to the existing racism and segregation in the American societies limiting the realization of the American Dream. After the observation of the play, different critiques from a variety of audiences instantly elicited, leading to the deeper analysis of the major theme in the play. Most of the criticisms misunderstood A Raisin in the Sun as a sign of segregation and racial assimilation and viewed that African American relations are in a position of realizing the American dream via homeownership. The debate on the interpretation of the play was against the intent of Hansberry political message and criticism linked to normative domesticity, white nuclear family and upward mobility, which is mainly observed through Hansberry outlining segregation as a vital part of the American Dream. Hansberry made use of the play to share her experiences throughout her life and exploring the effects of systematic oppression on private and interpersonal life. The essay analyzes different criticisms in the play and providing a personal stand on the critiques, thus appreciating the role of A Raisin in the Sun by Hansberry in the realization of the American Dream.

First, many critics overlook the powerful theme and consider the play as a symbol of unification, limiting African Americans’ capacity to realize the American Dream. Bernstein's critiques on the play are recounting how the white critics are surprised to realize unlimited similarities between the lives of the Youngsters and their personal life, creating a wide appeal through universality. That is a substance to reckon with as before there was no information in the lives and experiences of the African Americans by the whites. Some of the critiques acknowledge the play as an honest work looking into African American culture and private lives (16). Bernstein's interpretation is conflicting with Hansberry's theme of the play, creating an oxymoron misconstruing the message readers took from the play. Hansberry disputed the claims by considering A Raisin in the Sun as a universal play, but the paradox continued to spread amongst the critics. The existing societal norms and racial prejudice created a high misinterpretation of the Hansberry message. The authors message was to showcase the struggles of the minority and the marginalized community in their strive to attain the `American Dream`. The reactions and reasons distracted the true message of the play. The distraction was also linked to the fact that an African American woman wrote the pay, thus considered to be linked to racial discrimination. Linking the play to racial discrimination is losing the point in the course of discussion. Racial assimilation which is the most conspicuous theme in the play is what sounds positive. The blacks for that matter are capable to live a decent life and achieve their goals jumping over the hurdles along their way to self-actualization.

Besides, A Raisin in the Sun is one of the first plays focusing mainly on the African American culture, providing so much reality for black people's lives (Bernstein, 20). As one of the first plays, the work had a large appeal that intrigued the white audiences interested in learning more about the black culture and attracted the African Americans who had an interest in seeing their personal experiences in America outlined. The play tried to expose and understand the life of the black Americans. The large appeal of the play made the white critics consider the play as a universal and plausible book despite being on the African American family. Bernstein, in her articles, outlines that the contradiction is supporting the impression that the play is either particular or universal but cannot be both (22). As much as the critics would rant their views, what stands is the exceptional storyline is astounding. The interpretations are changing the predominant message of Hansberry. The general interpretation of the play displays that African Americans are making effort through similar challenges as those who are attempting to realize the American dreams. That makes the aspect of assimilation and affiliation that the race considered to be inferior have embraced in the course of their living in the society full of prejudice and racial tension. The play is having a contented culmination as the youths are can mitigate to the new homes and overpowers their economic fights. However, this turns out to be the opposite. The youngsters move into houses with hostile white neighborhood and face several new problems as the African American household in a white occupied communal. Moving to what they ones envied was not the helm of their joy at least. Still in this perceived success laid the harsh reality of a cold neighborhood that regarded them not one of them. The reality and analysis of the play show that social and political implications were misunderstood (Rose, 29). Hansberry disputed the critic and claim by offering a challenge to individuals thinking the play has an interesting ending to move and live around the communities the Youngers were migrating to (37).

Moreover, the white audiences were not ready to see the play becoming more informed on African American traditions but prefer learning trivialities about them. Failing to see the expected differences was a frustration to the white audience. The clue is promoting complexity in superiority as the Whites see African American culture as something, not holding important roles as their own culture. The knowledge of the play, especially on the African Americans, is putting additional prominence on the duty of race throughout the play, providing distract to viewers and detractors from the main message. This is evidenced in the class struggles of Walter viewing his low-class status as emasculating and grounding different methods to make him understand the concepts. Hansberry raised a complaint on how some criticizers were not reflecting on Walter’s class disputes dependent on ethnicity and race, making Bernstein relate the idea to white critics’ ability to ignore critical features of the play (19). The inability of the White critics to include the major themes of the play during interpretation shows a lack of political interest in the play and pre-existing prejudice and norms impacting interpretation of the people about the play. Hansberry knew that the societal stereotypes of African Americans would be based on behavioral expectations notwithstanding of what happens on the stage (Bernstein, 16). The interpretation is distorting the message of Hansberry by assuming critical ideas related to the racial part of the work. By concentrating on the racial features and stereotypes in society, the audiences are ignoring the African American image presented in the play. The interpretation shows the paradox between the play and universal or static interpretations. The interpretations are contributing to the distortion of the message of Hansberry, making her dispute the analysis by claiming the play can both be particular and universal, thus using A Raisin in the Sun as an instance. The play is considered precise as it centers on African American families' struggles and challenges while focusing on their struggles, questing to realize the American Dream.

Finally, the actions of the white people keeping whites out of particular areas signify the inequality between African American and whites. This racial alienation is deterrent to the harmonious and cohesion of the two races living within the same vicinity. The whites believed that African Americans are in a position of realizing the American Dream, overlooking the message of Hansberry that exclusion of the blacks was important to the American Dream, evidenced in the bribe given by Mr. Lindner. The universal response of the critics is placing constructive subjects and meaning onto the play while eliminating the prominent deleterious information. There is a claim that the characters in the play have universal strips based on race omitting their struggles and experience as African Americans, contradicting the message of Hansberry that the American Dream cannot be achieved if African Americans are eliminated. On the other hand it gives the idea of inclusion of the African Americans in the bigger American Dream. Rose links the interpretations of the claims based on two possibilities: either the white audience did not want to understand the play or fully comprehend the play (38). Failure to accept and to divert the aims of the play to their frustrating aims has no fault on the playwriter. The aspect of interpretation is relating to the prominent ideas leading to the distortion of Hansberry’s message through misinterpretation since the white was aligning the theme of the play on economic and racial triumph, yet the African American are not in a better position from the onset of the play. The whites are also categorizing the African Americans as Negro distorting the message of the play on leading to social injustice and division amongst the whites and African American. Since this was the first time the play aired out the lives of the African Americans, some of the viewers considered the play as the only way of learning the African American culture. That was a groundbreaking reality on the ability of the African American to also venture in the film industry and production. Bernstein says that the racial discrimination shows the dehumanization African Americans are submerged based on political ideologies (17). Political ideologies that are different and not convergent are the root directives of such dehumanizing claims.

In conclusion, the play, A Raisin in the Sun by Hansberry is used to show the challenges African Americans are undergoing in the USA to meet the American dreams. Different critics over the play have been outlined, making Hansberry come up and support the play's major themes. I strongly disagree with the claims and critics outlined against the play from my personal point of view. The play was aiming at reducing the racial discrimination hindering the realization of the American Dream by identifying the challenges African Americans are undergoing. But the claims such as the play have been written by African American woman shows gender stereotype in interpretations of the work. Besides, the white critics were deviating from the major theme of the play and believing that African American can realize the American Dreams by homeownership without considering the environmental challenges surrounding them. Thus, I support the ideas of Hansberry in defending her work after every critic and claim, making the play to be relevant and can help in realizing the American Dreams, which has never been achieved due to discrimination related to gender, race and ethnicity.

Works cited

Bernstein, Robin. "Inventing a fishbowl: white supremacy and the critical reception of Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun." *Modern Drama* 42.1 (1999): 16-27.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A raisin in the Sun*. Turtleback Books, 2004.

Rose, Tricia. "Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun and the “Illegible” Politics of (Inter) personal Justice." *Kalou* 1.1 (2014).