Walter Lee's Characterization in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

Consider how Lorraine Hansberry depicts the character of Walter Lee in the opening scene of *A Raisin in the Sun* through his description, action, and dialogue. What are the traits and characteristics that Hansberry wants to emphasize about Walter Lee? Carefully read the following excerpts and then provide commentary on the type of person Walter Lee is in the present and how he might grow and develop by the end of the play.

Description
Concrete Detail: *(. . . The bedroom door at the right opens and her husband stands in the doorway in his pajamas, which are rumpled and mismated. He is a lean, intense young man in his middle thirties, inclined to quick nervous movements and erratic speech habits—and always in his voice there is a quality of indictment.)* (25)
Commentary:

Action
Concrete Detail: WALTER *(To* RUTH *only)* What you tell the boy things like that for? *(Reaching down into his pants with a rather important gesture)* Here, son— . . . *(Without even looking at his son, still staring hard at his wife)* In fact, here's another fifty cents . . . Buy yourself some fruit today—or take a taxicab to school or something! (31)
Commentary:

Dialogue
Concrete Detail: WALTER *(Rising and coming to her and standing over her)* You tired, ain't you? Tired of everything. Me, the boy, the way we live—this beat-up hole—everything. Ain't you? [. . .] So tired—moaning and groaning all the time, but you wouldn't do nothing to help, would you? You couldn't be on my side that long for nothing, could you? (32)
Commentary: