Style Analysis: Walter Lee's Plea in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

Consider the significance of the Walter Lee's plea to Mama at the end of Act I in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* in helping us understand why he is so bitter and frustrated. Carefully read the following excerpt and then identify the different types of literary techniques that are used in the scene and provide commentary on how each element helps us better understand the character of Walter Lee and the overall theme of the play.

Diction (Word Choice/Connotation)		**Language** (Metaphors/Symbols/Allusions)
Concrete Detail: Commentary:	WALTER I want so many things that they are driving me kinda crazy . . . Mama—look at me. MAMA I'm looking at you. You a good-looking boy. You got a job, a nice wife, and fine boy and— WALTER A job. *(Looks at her)* Mama, a job? I open and close car doors all day long. I drive a man around in his limousine and I say, "Yes, sir; no, sir; very good, sir; shall I take the Drive, sir?" Mama, that ain't no kind of job . . . that ain't nothing at all. *(Very quietly)* Mama, I don't know if I can make you understand. [. . .] Sometimes it's like I can see the future stretched out in front of me—just plain as day. The future, Mama. Hanging over there at the edge of my days. Just waiting for me—a big, looming blank space—full of *nothing*. Just waiting for *me*. But it don't have to be. *(Pause. Kneeling beside her chair)* Mama—sometimes when I'm downtown and I pass them cool, quiet-looking restaurants where them white boys are sitting back and talking 'bout things . . . sitting there turning deals worth millions of dollars . . . sometimes I see guys don't look much older than me— MAMA Son—how come you talk so much 'bout money? WALTER *(With immense passion)* Because it is life, Mama! MAMA *(Quietly)* Oh—*(Very quietly)* So now it's life. Money is life. Once upon a time freedom used to be life—now it's money. I guess the world really do change . . . WALTER No—it was always money, Mama. We just didn't know about it. (72-73)	Concrete Detail: Commentary:
Imagery (Sensory Details)		**Syntax** (Sentence Structure)
Concrete Detail: Commentary:		Concrete Detail: Commentary: