The Gift and Burden of Dreams in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

The $10,000 life insurance benefit that the family receives after Big Walter's death provides an opportunity for each member of the Younger family to pursue their dreams. The monetary gift, however, proves to be a mixed blessing for the family. Carefully read the following excerpts and provide commentary on how each dream may be seen as both positive and negative not only for the individuals, but for the family as well.

Positive	Concrete Details	Negative
	WALTER This ain't no fly-by-night proposition, baby. I mean we figured it out, me and Willy and Bobo . . . *(Not listening at all or even looking at her)* This morning, I was lookin' in the mirror and thinking about it . . . I'm thirty-five years old; I been married eleven years and I got a boy who sleeps in the living room—*(Very, very quietly)*—and all I got to give him is stories about how rich white people live . . . (33-34)	
	BENEATHA Get over it? What are you talking about Ruth? Listen, I'm going to be a doctor. I'm not worried about who I'm going to marry yet—if I ever get married. [. . .] Oh, I probably will . . . but first I'm going to be a doctor, and George, for one still thinks that's pretty funny. I couldn't be bothered with that. I am going to be a doctor and everybody around here better understand that! (50)	
	MAMA [. . .] Been thinking that we maybe could meet the notes on a little old two-story somewhere, with a yard where Travis could play in the summertime, if we use part of the insurance for a down payment [. . .] But Lord, child, you should know all the dreams I had 'bout buying that house and fixing it up and making me a little garden in the back— . . . . (44-45)	