Thematic Seeds in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

Consider Lorraine Hansberry's opening description of the Younger house in the stage directions prior to Act I of *A Raisin in the Sun*. How does Hansberry's setting create mood, establish tone, and hint at the larger themes of the play? Carefully read the following excerpts and provide commentary that examines the impact that the setting might have on an audience and how her use of setting helps foreshadow her overall theme.

Concrete Detail
The YOUNGER *living room would be a comfortable and well-ordered room if it were not for a number of indestructible contradictions to this state of being. Its furnishings are typical and undistinguished and their primary feature now is that they have clearly had to accommodate the living of too many people for too many years—and they are tired.* (23)
Commentary

Concrete Detail
Still, we can see that at some time, a time probably no longer remembered by the family (except perhaps for MAMA*), the furnishings of this room were actually selected with care and love and even hope—and brought to this apartment and arranged with taste and pride.* (23)
Commentary

Concrete Detail
Weariness has, in fact, won in this room. Everything has been polished, washed, sat on, used, scrubbed too often. All pretenses but living itself have long since vanished from the very atmosphere of this room. [. . .] *The sole natural light the family may enjoy in the course of a day is only that which fights its way through this little window* [in the kitchen area]. (23-24)
Commentary