### Act II (scene 1) Discussion Questions
30 points  due 3/12/08

1. What significance for their continued relationship do you think it has that Beneatha prepares to go out to a play with George Murchison in the dress that Joseph Asagai got for her?
2. What do you think has prompted Beneatha to cut her hair short and into an “Afro” hairstyle?
3. Do you think politics is the only reason Beneatha declares she hates assimilationists? If not, what could another factor be?
4. What does it show about Ruth’s awareness of racial tensions that in a casual chat with George Murchison she refers to bombings?
5. What do you think prompts Walter to assert that he has been to New York plenty of times when his wife flatly contradicts him?
6. Why does Walter launch into a string of insults to George Murchison? Why might Walter be so resentful of Murchison?
7. How do you think Walter knew that Murchison was insulting him by calling him “Prometheus,” even though he didn’t know who Prometheus was?
8. Why does Mama ignore her son when she comes home? What does this show… is the tension in their relationship?
9. What theme in the play is recalled to the reference to “marching roaches”? Why do you think the author put that phrase in the play at that point?
10. What quality do we see in Mrs. Younger when she tells her son, “When it gets like that in life—you just got to do something different, push on out and do something bigger”?

### Act II (scene 2) Discussion Questions
30 points  due 3/13/08

1. What qualities do we see in George Murchison at the beginning of the scene that Beneatha might not like?
2. Why does Beneatha refer to him as a fool, when speaking of him to her mother? In what ways would she consider him foolish?
3. When Mrs. Johnson says, “I’m just soooooo happy for y’all,” do you think she is being honest or hypocritical? What later actions or words of hers either confirm or deny that she is speaking honestly here?
4. Why do Mama and Ruth roll their eyes before offering Mrs. Johnson the coffee? What do you think they are reacting to?
5. Why do you think Beneatha greets Mrs. Johnson so curtly? Why does Mrs. Younger object?
6. This question relates tangentially to the play and can be answered in many ways. What do you know about the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups like them which exist in the United States? Do you think they should be allowed to continue to operate or do you think they should be outlawed? State your reasons.
7. In your opinion, why has Walter’s drinking gotten worse?
8. Do you think Mrs. Younger made the right decision in deciding to give money for the liquor store venture to Walter? Why or why not?
9. What do we understand clearly when Travis asks his father if he’s drunk?
10. At the end of the scene, when Walter says he will hand the world to his son, do you think this will really happen? Why or why not?
1. Why does Walter say, “Even the N double A C P takes a holiday sometimes…?” What is the NAACP, and what does his referring to it show about his changing attitude?
2. When Beneatha answers him, “Sticks and stones may break my bones…” what are we reminded of?
3. Why do you think Karl Lindner goes to such lengths to talk about everybody getting along before he gets to his reason for talking to them?
4. Who catches on first to what his purpose in talking to them is about? How do you know?
5. What is so cruelly ironic in Lindner statement: “They’re not rich and fancy people; just hard-working, honest people who don’t really have much but those little homes and a dream of the kind of community they want to raise their children in”?
6. Do you believe Linder when he says to the family, “I want you to believe me when I tell you that race prejudice simply doesn’t enter into it”? Why or why not?
7. What is the disturbing reminder when Mama says that her children have all the energy of the dead?
8. How is this theme carried forward in Walter saying, “they just dying to have out there… a fine family of fine colored people”? What is the tone set by Walter’s remark?
9. What conversation are we reminded of when Mama prepares to take her plant to the new house and says “It expresses ME!” How does the plant express Mrs. Younger?
10. What change in Walter do we see when he sobs to Bobo “THAT MONEY IS MADE OUT OF MY FATHER’S FLESH”?