**Activity: A *Raisin in the Sun* Evidence Retrieval Chart—Act I**

Instructions:

1. For each of the characters listed, find at least one passage from the play in which this character’s aspirations or ambitions are stated, referred to or shown. The speaker does not necessarily have to be the same as the character. For instance, Walter might make a statement about his sister, Beneatha, and her ambitions.
2. Make sure to note the speaker and the page number on which the passage appears.
3. After copying the passage, write your own thoughts about the passage. Aim to address the following issues in your response:
   * What do you think of the character and his/her ambitions?
   * Given the historical/social context, is the aspiration or ambition realistic?

Why/why not?

* What might be some obstacles for this character?
* What might be some strengths that this character has that would help him/her overcome any obstacles?

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| Walter  Speaker:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page:\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Your Response: |
| Mama  Speaker:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page:\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Your Response: |
| Beneatha  Speaker:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page:\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Your Response: |
| Travis  Speaker:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page:\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Your Response: |
| Ruth  Speaker:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page:\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Your Response |

***A Raisin in the Sun* Evidence Retrieval Chart—Act I SAMPLE**

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| Walter  “Yeah. You see, this little liquor store we got in mind cost seventy-five thousand and we figured the initial investment on the place be ‘bout thirty thousand, see. That be ten thousand each.”  Speaker:\_\_\_Walter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page: 33 | Your Response:  I think Walter wants to be his own boss and he sees Mama’s insurance check as a way to get started in his own liquor business with his friends. It seems like it should be realistic for Walter to open a liquor store. It’s not like he’s thinking about becoming a stockbroker on Wall Street. One obstacle that seems clear already is that his wife, Ruth, doesn’t seem to support him on this. She thinks he might be getting involved with some shady business partners. Walter seems to know his own mind, though, so maybe he will be successful. |
| Mama  “We was going to set away, little by little, don’t you know, and buy a little place out in Morgan Park. We even picked out the house. Looks right dumpy today. 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. And didn’t none of it happen.  Speaker:\_\_Mama\_\_ Page:\_45 | Your Response:  Mama’s dream seems pretty simple—she wants a house with a little garden. I think most people would want that. Her dream doesn’t seem outrageous. I guess it might be hard for African Americans to find a house to buy during this time, especially if they want to move out of the city and into the suburbs. But it seems like if you have enough money, you should be able to buy a house wherever you want. Money talks, right? Mama’s insurance money is just as green as the next person’s… |

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| Walter  “Yeah. You see, this little liquor store we got in mind cost seventy-five thousand and we figured the initial investment on the place be ‘bout thirty thousand, see. That be ten thousand each.”  Speaker:\_\_\_Walter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Page: 33 | Your Response:  I think Walter wants to be his own boss and he sees Mama’s insurance check as a way to get started in his own liquor business with his friends. It seems like it should be realistic for Walter to open a liquor store. It’s not like he’s thinking about becoming a stockbroker on Wall Street. One obstacle that seems clear already is that his wife, Ruth, doesn’t seem to support him on this. She thinks he might be getting involved with some shady business partners. Walter seems to know his own mind, though, so maybe he will be successful. |
| Mama  “We was going to set away, little by little, don’t you know, and buy a little place out in Morgan Park. We even picked out the house. Looks right dumpy today. 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. And didn’t none of it happen.  Speaker:\_\_Mama\_\_ Page:\_45 | Your Response:  Mama’s dream seems pretty simple—she wants a house with a little garden. I think most people would want that. Her dream doesn’t seem outrageous. I guess it might be hard for African Americans to find a house to buy during this time, especially if they want to move out of the city and into the suburbs. But it seems like if you have enough money, you should be able to buy a house wherever you want. Money talks, right? Mama’s insurance money is just as green as the next person’s… |