

r̥mædʒɪn

IPA
LETTER



LORRAINE HANSBERRY, U.S. PLAYWRIGHT

Discusses *A Raisin in the Sun*

wel wʌtʰ ɪtʰ ɪnˈvɒlvz | ɪs | ən ɪɡˌzæmɪˈneɪʃən | ʌv ə
Well, what it involves – is – an examination – of a

ˈfæmliː | ˈsaʊθ sɑd əv ʃɪˈkɑɡəʊ | we ˌɹɑ wəz ˈbɔːn |
family – South Side of Chicago – where I was born –

hu brɪˈlɑŋ tə ði | ˈloʊ.ə ˈklɑsɪz | ə ˈfæmli əv
who belong to the – lower classes – a family of

dəˈmɛstɪk ˈwɜkəz | hu aɪ ˈhoʊp ə ˈfeɪli ˈtɪpɪkəl
domestic workers – who I hope are fairly typical

əv ðə ˈpiːpl̩ hu | ˈθɪŋk | ðət ðeə ˌɪz ˈsʌmθɪŋ
of the people who – think – that there is something

ˈmɔː tə du wɪθ jɔː ˈlaɪf ðən tu ækˈseptʰ ɪtʰ æs ɪtʰ ɪs ||
more to do with your life than to accept it as it is.

ʌ ði ˈjʌŋ ˈsʌn brɪˈkɑms ði | wʌʔ wɪ ˈkɔʔ ðə
uh, The young son becomes the – what we call the

ˈpɪvətʰ əv ˈdɹɑmə | ænd hɪz æmˈbɪʃən ɪs tu |
pivot of drama and his ambition is to –

ækˈseptɪŋ əˈmeɪrɪkən ˈvælɪəs ɪn ðeə ˈtoʊtælɪti tə
accepting American values, in their totality, to

This week's text comes from *The History Channel's* archive of famous speeches. You can listen along with Ms. Hansberry as she discusses *A Raisin in the Sun*. To hear the [sample](#), you will need to be able to play Real-Player content.

The speaker's dialect is particularly interesting, in that it features many characteristics of "Standard Speech" and is in marked contrast to typical "South Side Chicago" African American speech. Note the use of the monophthong [a] in the word "side," a feature of many African-American accents, with roots in the US South. Rhotic vowels are also very interesting – with many instances with little to no r-colouring. This "educated" speech style is reminiscent of poet Maya Angelou.

bɪ'kʌm ə sək'sesfʊl 'bɪznɪsmæn || ə | vɛɪ 'sɪmplɪ
become a successful businessman. euh... Very simply

ðə 'mʌθə_ænd ðə | hɪz 'waɪf want tu ʌ 'sɪmplɪ
the mother and the – his wife want to, uh, simply

ɡetʰ ə hʌʊm || sə ðɛz ə 'kʌnflɪkt bɪ'twɪn ðə tu ||
get a home. So there's a conflict between the two.

ɪn tɜːmz əv ə 'stetmənt ə θɪŋk wʌt ðə 'pleɪ | ʌ |
In terms of a statement, I think what the play, uh,

traɪs tu 'seɪ ɪz ðæt | wɪ ɹɪlɪ doʊnt hæv vɛɪ mʌtʃ
tries to say, is that we really don't have very much

ɪn ðə wɜːld at ɔːl | ɪf wɪ ə'laʊ | ɪnɪ 'ʔæspɛkt əv
in the world at all if we allow any aspect of

mʌni 'væljuːz | tu tɹæn'send | ðə ɹɪ'kwɪəmənts ðæt
money values to transcend the requirements that

ɑ 'nɛsəseɪ fɔ 'hjuːmən 'dɪɡnɪti
are necessary for human dignity.

from *The History Channel Speech Archives*.

http://www.historychannel.com/speeches/archive/speech_387.html



African-American poet
Langston Hughes

ə 'dɹɪm dɪ'fɜːd

bai 'læŋstən 'hruːz

wʌt 'hæpənz tu ə 'dɹɪm dɪ'fɜːd?

dʌz ɪt dɹai ʌp
laɪk ə 'dɹeɪzɪn ɪn ðə 'slʌn?
ɔə 'festə laɪk ə 'sɔə
ænd ðen 'ɪʌn?
dʌz ɪt 'stɪŋk laɪk 'ɪaʔtɪ 'mɪt?
ɔə 'kɪʌst ənd fʊgə 'ʊnə
laɪk ə 'sɜːrəpi 'swɪt?

'meɪbi ɪt dʒʌst 'sægz
laɪk ə 'hevi 'ləʊd

ɔə 'dʌz ɪt ɛks'pləʊd?



Imagine IPA Letter

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The second text in this week's Letter is from Langston Hughes' *A Dream Deferred*, the poem which inspired Hansberry's title. Hughes (1902-1967) wrote prolifically about the negro experience and created a Jazz style all his own. http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/g_l/hughes/life.htm

This week I used a lot of pause characters in the text to denote the rhythm of Hansberry's speech. The short pause | and the long pause || can be used to interpret the "punctuation" of the speakers thought process.

As always, you can contact me by email at <earmstro@yorku.ca>