

Masculinity and Femininity in *A Raisin in the Sun*

Directions: You will analyze the characters' masculinity and femininity in *A Raisin in the Sun* by examining character interactions. To help guide your analysis, thoroughly complete the chart; then, answer the questions. Reference characters' specific actions and words to support your claims.

Character	Action/Dialogue	Impact of Action/Dialogue on that Character or Other Characters	Stereotypical Gender Trait Portrayed	Does the action/dialogue challenge or reinforce stereotypical depiction?
Ruth				
Walter				

Mama				
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1. Masculinity and femininity are social constructs, so they depend on social expectations – in this play, how do the women expect Walter to act and respond? Does he meet their expectations? How do their continual expectations impact him?
2. How does Walter treat the women in his life?
3. Who makes the decisions in the house (there is a slight shift in power as the play progresses)? How do these decisions impact the family?