

**LEARNING STRATEGIES:**

Quickwrite, Think-Pair-Share, Visualizing

My Notes

## Learning Targets

- Examine how a single topic is explored by multiple writers.
- Synthesize the ideas of multiple texts.

## Before Reading

1. **Quickwrite:** Another aspect of the American Dream is money. Americans often equate success with money. How important is money to attaining the American Dream?

2. Read and review the following quotations about money and write a brief explanation of each one in your own words. Think of a visual to go with each one.

“The love of money is the root of all evil.” (from the Bible)

“Remember that time is money.” (*Benjamin Franklin*)

“Put not your trust in money, but your money in trust.” (*Oliver Wendell Holmes*)

“A good reputation is more valuable than money.” (*Pubilius Syrus*)

“If money be not thy servant, it will be thy master.” (Sir Francis Bacon)

“The safest way to double your money is to fold it over twice and put it in your pocket.” (Frank McKinney Hubbard)

“Those who believe money can do everything are frequently prepared to do everything for money.” (George Savile)

“There’s no money in poetry, but then there’s no poetry in money, either.” (Robert Graves)

“Money cannot buy happiness.” (Anonymous)

“A fool and his money are soon parted.” (*Benjamin Franklin*)

“A penny saved is a penny earned.” (*Benjamin Franklin*)

### During Reading

3. As you read the poem, look for examples of **personification** and **synecdoche**. An example of synecdoche is “all hands on deck” to mean sailors (part to whole) or “America will win the America’s Cup this year” (whole to part).

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After fifteen years in a business career, Dana Gioia became a full-time writer in 1992. He is a literary and music critic, poet, and radio commentator who has also served as the Chairman for the National Endowment of the Arts. His essay “Can Poetry Matter?” is considered one of the most influential literary criticisms in the last quarter century.

### Poetry

# Money

by Dana Gioia

Money, the long green,  
cash, stash, rhino, jack  
or just plain dough.

Chock it up, fork it over,

- 5 shell it out. Watch it  
burn holes through pockets.

To be made of it! To have it  
to burn! Greenbacks, double eagles,  
megabucks and Ginnie Maes.

- 10 It greases the palm, feathers a nest,  
holds heads above water,  
makes both ends meet.

Money breeds money.

Gathering interest, compounding daily.

- 15 Always in circulation.

Money. You don’t know where it’s been,  
but you put it where your mouth is.  
And it talks.

#### Literary Terms

**Personification** is a figure of speech used to describe an object as having human qualities.

**Synecdoche** is a figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole or vice versa.

#### My Notes

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#### KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

What other slang names do you know for money? What does it say about money in American life that we have so many idioms and images associated with it?

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# Money and the American Dream

## My Notes

### After Reading

4. Connect the quotes to the poem. Which quotes fit with the tone and the meaning of the poem “Money”? Explain.

### Before Reading

5. *A Raisin in the Sun* is a play about an African American family that is set in Chicago sometime between World War II and 1959, when the play was first produced. The family is about to receive a large amount of money after the death of the father. Walter, the son, wants to invest the money in a liquor store but his mother objects.

### During Reading

6. As you read the excerpt of the play, pay attention to the conflicting attitudes toward the role of money in this family and what money means to the main characters. Highlight the lines that show the character’s opinions about money.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lorraine Hansberry grew up in Chicago in an educated, successful, and activist family. Her father moved the family into a white neighborhood to challenge discriminatory housing practices. Her play, a huge literary and commercial success, was developed out of that experience.

#### Drama

## *From* **A Raisin in the Sun**

by Lorraine Hansberry

#### Characters:

Walter and Ruth Younger (husband and wife)  
Lena Younger (Mama—Walter’s mother)

MAMA: What was they fighting about?

RUTH: Now you know as well as I do.

MAMA (*shaking her head*): Brother still worrying hisself sick about that money?

RUTH: You know he is.

MAMA: You had breakfast?

RUTH: Some coffee.

MAMA: Girl, you better start eating and looking after yourself better. You almost thin as Travis.

RUTH: Lena—

MAMA: Un-hunh?

RUTH: What are you going to do with it?

MAMA: Now don’t you start, child. It’s too early in the morning to be talking about money. It ain’t Christian.



# Money and the American Dream

## My Notes

### After Reading

7. What are the conflicting attitudes toward the role of money in this family. What does money mean to each of the main characters? Identify the textual evidence to support your response.

### Check Your Understanding

**Writing Prompt:** Select one of the following writing options for synthesizing the ideas of multiple texts into one. Be sure to:

- Demonstrate a consideration of the texts in the activity.
- Present a clear thesis or controlling idea.
- Smoothly synthesize the ideas.
- Use a variety of sentence structures.

**Prompt 1:** Choose three separate quotations—a money quote, a line from the poem “Money,” and a line from *A Raisin in the Sun*—that could provide evidence or a jumping off point for your discussion of the question: *How important is money to attaining the American Dream?*

**Prompt 2:** Express a personal attitude toward money (perhaps agreeing or disagreeing with one of the quotes about money on page 70) incorporating direct support of your thinking from three of the texts in this activity.

**Prompt 3:** In an essay that synthesizes ideas from three of the texts in this activity for support, take a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim the money is an essential part of achieving the American Dream.