

Voices of the Youngers Answer Key

1. **Speaker:** Mama (Lena Younger)

Meaning: Mama reflects on the struggle of Black men who are denied opportunities, but reminds Walter that family makes the struggle worthwhile.

Theme: Dreams / Family - The quote blends the pursuit of dreams with the responsibility of family.

2. **Speaker:** Ruth

Meaning: Ruth tells Walter to “eat his eggs” during his big talk about dreams, symbolizing her practicality and weariness of his unrealistic ambitions. It shows tension between everyday survival and Walter’s grand visions.

Theme: Dreams - Highlights the clash between aspirations and harsh realities.

3. **Speaker:** Mama (to Beneatha)

Meaning: Mama reminds Beneatha that love is not conditional. Even when Walter makes mistakes, family ties remain strong, and forgiveness is necessary.

Theme: Family - Emphasizes love and unity even during conflict.

4. **Speaker:** Mama (Lena Younger)

Meaning: Mama tells Walter that dignity cannot be bought. Accepting money from Lindner would mean surrendering to racism and dishonor.

Theme: Race / Family - Reinforces racial pride and family honor.

5. **Speaker:** Beneatha (about her hair)

Meaning: Beneatha embraces her natural hair as an expression of her African identity. She resists assimilation and insists on being true to herself.

Theme: Race / Dreams - Connects to cultural identity and her dream of shaping her own future.