



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## History Threads

**Directions:** Read the passage below, which includes an excerpt inspired by an author's work and background notes about the historical period. Use the **Cultural Connection Chart** to connect elements of the passage to its cultural or historical context.

### Author Focus: Lorraine Hansberry

#### Passage - Inspired by *A Raisin in the Sun*

Beneatha Younger dreamed of becoming a doctor, a bold ambition in 1950s America. Her family's small apartment carried the weight of generations of struggle, while outside, segregation and racial prejudice shaped every opportunity. Beneatha's defiance of traditional gender roles and her embrace of African identity marked her as a character ahead of her time, echoing new voices rising in the Civil Rights era.

**Historical Note:** Hansberry wrote the play in 1959, during a period when African Americans were fighting for civil rights, and women were beginning to challenge traditional expectations.

Detail from the Work	Cultural/Historical Context	Connection Explained
Beneatha wants to be a doctor		
The cramped family apartment		
Emphasis on African identity		
Gender expectations for Beneatha		