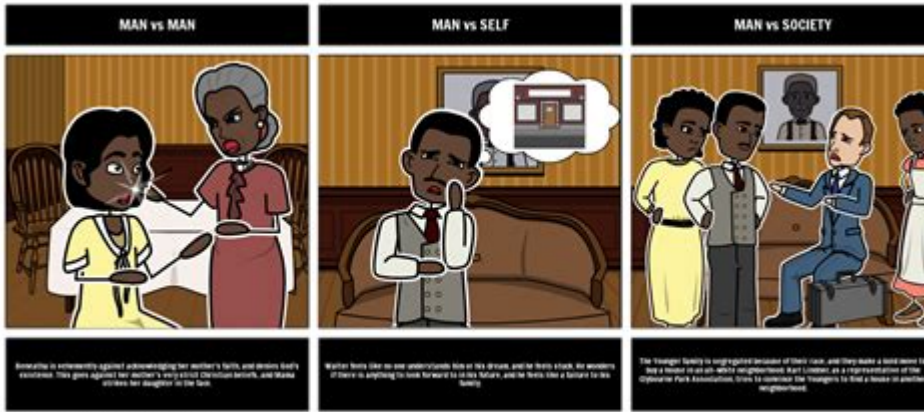


What Solution Does Walter Have



What Solution Does Walter Have? Exploring the Ingenious Solutions in "A Raisin in the Sun"

Are you pondering the complex challenges faced by Walter Lee Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's iconic play, *A Raisin in the Sun*? This post delves deep into the various "solutions" Walter proposes, analyzing their practicality, consequences, and ultimately, their reflection of his character and the play's central themes. We'll examine his evolving perspectives, highlighting the desperate measures he takes and the devastating repercussions that follow. Get ready for a nuanced exploration of Walter's journey and the weight of his responsibilities.

Walter's Initial "Solution": The Liquor Store Investment

Walter's primary goal, fueled by a desire to provide for his family and escape the confines of his working-class reality, centers around securing a liquor store investment. This represents his initial, seemingly straightforward "solution" to his family's financial woes.

The Allure of the American Dream

This "solution" is deeply rooted in the American Dream – the belief that hard work and risk-taking can lead to significant financial success. For Walter, this investment isn't just about money; it's about achieving respect, providing a better future for his son Travis, and proving his worth as a man and a provider. He envisions a future free from the limitations of his current job and the constant struggle for survival.

The Flawed Execution

However, the execution of this plan is riddled with flaws. Walter's reliance on Willy Harris, a shady

character, exposes his naiveté and lack of business acumen. This highlights a key problem: Walter's "solution" lacks due diligence and careful planning. His desperation overshadows sound judgment, leading him down a path of potentially devastating consequences.

A Shifting Landscape: Alternative Solutions and Their Failures

As the play progresses, Walter's initial "solution" crumbles. He's forced to confront the harsh reality of his poor judgment. His desperation leads him to explore other options, each revealing a different facet of his personality and the obstacles he faces.

The Desperate Gamble: Compromising Mama's Savings

Facing the impending loss of the liquor store investment, Walter resorts to a desperate gamble – using his mother's life savings without her consent. This act highlights his profound sense of failure and his desperation to reclaim control of his family's future, even if it means undermining his mother's authority and potentially ruining her life's work. This "solution," born out of panic, proves to be disastrous, revealing the extent of his flawed judgment.

The Weight of Responsibility: A Shift in Perspective

The loss of the money acts as a catalyst. Walter's initial arrogance and bravado crumble, replaced by a profound sense of shame and responsibility. This marks a turning point in his journey. He begins to understand the gravity of his actions and the far-reaching consequences of his choices. This newfound perspective ultimately shapes his final "solution."

Walter's Final "Solution": Acceptance and Responsibility

After facing the devastation of his failed schemes, Walter finds a semblance of a solution not in financial gain, but in accepting responsibility for his actions and reaffirming his commitment to his family's future. This final "solution" is less about a tangible outcome and more about a profound internal shift.

Finding Dignity in Honesty

Walter finally confronts his flaws and takes ownership of his mistakes. This acceptance, although painful, is a powerful form of personal growth and allows him to begin rebuilding his relationship with his family and his self-respect. This newfound honesty and responsibility become his ultimate "solution," paving the way for a more hopeful future.

The Broader Significance of Walter's Journey

Walter's search for a "solution" isn't merely a personal struggle; it reflects the wider societal pressures and systemic inequalities faced by African Americans during the era in which the play is set. His aspirations, though flawed in their execution, highlight the deep-seated desire for upward mobility and the crushing weight of systemic barriers that obstruct it.

Conclusion

Walter Lee Younger's journey through the play is a testament to the complexities of the human spirit and the multifaceted nature of the American Dream. His "solutions," though flawed, reveal a man wrestling with his identity, his responsibilities, and the crushing weight of expectation. Ultimately, his true solution lies not in financial success, but in his acceptance of responsibility and his commitment to his family, a testament to resilience and the enduring power of human connection.

FAQs

1. Why does Walter initially reject Beneatha's aspirations? Walter's rejection of Beneatha's dreams stems from his own sense of failure and his belief that practical, financially secure ambitions are more important. He feels threatened by her artistic pursuits which he deems frivolous in the face of their financial hardship.
2. How does Walter's relationship with his son, Travis, evolve throughout the play? Walter's relationship with Travis is initially strained due to Walter's financial anxieties and frustration. However, as Walter's perspective shifts, he begins to prioritize Travis's future, demonstrating a newfound sense of responsibility and fatherly love.
3. What role does Willy Harris play in Walter's downfall? Willy Harris serves as a catalyst for Walter's downfall, representing the allure of quick riches and the dangers of unchecked ambition and poor judgment. His untrustworthiness embodies the pitfalls of relying on questionable opportunities.
4. How does Mama's decision impact Walter's "solutions"? Mama's decision to invest in the house represents a counterpoint to Walter's risky schemes, offering stability and a foundation for the family's future. This provides a crucial counterbalance to Walter's desperation.
5. What is the ultimate message of Walter's struggles? The ultimate message centers on the importance of resilience, the complexities of pursuing the American Dream within a system of inequality, and the transformative power of accepting responsibility and embracing family unity.

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