

# Lorraine Hansberry

Playwright  
and author



Lorraine Hansberry was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1930. When she was still a small child, Hansberry's family moved to a restricted neighborhood for white residents, which was against the law at the time. Hansberry's father took the family's case all the way to the Supreme Court, and her mother stayed to guard the home, ready to defend her children if necessary. The family won their case, but the experience affected Hansberry deeply. Her best-known work, a dramatic play called *A Raisin in the Sun*, was inspired by these events. It was the first play written by an African-American to be produced on Broadway. At the age of 29, Hansberry became the youngest American playwright to receive the prestigious New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play. Hansberry's promising career was cut short by her death from pancreatic cancer at the age of 34.

## Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. *A Raisin in the Sun* was also the first play on Broadway with an African-American \_\_\_\_\_, Lloyd Richards. TORREDC
2. The 1961 film version of *A Raisin in the Sun* starred legendary African-American actor Sydney \_\_\_\_\_. DCEPTR
3. A 2004 Broadway revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*, starring Sean \_\_\_\_\_ Combs, received a Tony Award nomination for Best Revival of a Play. YDOD