You will turn these journal responses in at the end of the play, so be sure to complete these writing responses after each scene.

Prompt answers for each prompt: you earn an improved understanding of the play; you will become engaged with the characters and plot; and you will develop an increased self-esteem resulting from pride of a job well done.
If you wait: you will feel overwhelmed and become angry with yourself, leading to low self-esteem and bitterness (gulp) toward school.

This work must be completed independently. Be sure to answer each question in paragraph form: topic sentence, supporting evidence, and explanation.

Journal Prompts – Scene Specific

Act 1, Scene 1

Choose one of the characters that has a challenge or problem you can identify with. Who is the character and what is the problem? What do you see as the possible outcomes or solutions to these problems?

Act 1, Scene 2

Thinking about the scene with the rat, what effect does it have on different characters? What does this scene reveal about these characters and their struggles?

After the scene where Asagai is introduced, how would you compare him to George Murchison? Which would be a better fit for Beneatha? Why?

Act 2, Scene 1

This scene shows many sides of Walter. What do you see or learn about him that is new to you? Does this scene change your view of him in any way?

Why do Walter and Beneatha get along better in this scene?

What does this scene show about Walter and Ruth's relationship? What do you predict will happen?

Act 2, Scene 2

In this scene, Beneatha says, "there are two things [black Americans] have got to overcome, one is the Klu Klux Klan – and the other is Mrs. Johnson" (104). What does she mean?

How and why does Mama make her decision about the money?

Act 2, Scene 3

Comparing Mr. Linder and the Youngers, which common desires or goals do they have? What differences are there?

Is Mr. Linder an evil or bad person? Explain.

Why does Mama hit Walter?

Act 3

In this act, many of the characters come to important new understandings. Pick one character, explain his or her new insight and discuss who or what brings this about.