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American Studies English

*The Color Purple*

**Guided Reading Questions**

**Pages 141-173**

As you read *The Color Purple*, respond to the following questions. These questions will help you identify key ideas and details from the text. **When you respond,** **please write down the page number where you located the answer to each question.**  This will help you during activities, writing assignments, and class discussions.

1. What do you think Nettie means when she says “I felt like I was seeing black for the first time” (141)?
2. Why doesn’t Nettie like the Senegalese she meets in the market?
3. Why does Nettie kneel down on the deck when she sees the African coast?
4. What does Celie want Albert to allow Shug to do?
5. Why does Shug does suggest the idea of making pants to Celie? What might the pants be symbolic of?
6. When Nettie travels on a ship to Africa, she is met by an African named Joseph. How is she treated by the boatmen on the ship?
7. How do the people in the village respond to Nettie and rest of the missionaries?
8. What connection do the village people notice between Nettie and Olivia and Adam?
9. What is the biggest part of the welcoming ceremony?
10. Nettie explains that at one time roofleaf grew in abundance in the Olinka village. What happened when the rainy season came?
11. Why is it significant that the white missionary who preceded Nettie in Africa did not allow the Olinkas to hold the roofleaf ceremony?
12. What is the Olika belief regarding girls and education?
13. How is the oppression within the Olinka tribe similar to the oppression the female characters in the novel experienced in the United States?
14. Who is Tashi?
15. Why does Corrine want Nettie to call her “sister”?
16. Why are Tashi’s mother and father upset?
17. What does the way that men speak to women in the village remind Nettie of?
18. What is being built in the Olinka village?
19. What is one thing about the Olinka that Nettie says that she definitely does not like?
20. Why do the Olinka think the road is being built?
21. Why is the road really being built?
22. What do you think is Walker’s purpose for including the violation of the Olinkas?
23. Why does Corrine examine Nettie’s stomach?