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American Studies English

*The Color Purple*

**Guided Reading Questions**

**Pages 62-79**

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 discussion.

1. Why is Harpo crying on Celie’s porch?
2. Why does Harpo have black eyes?
3. What does Harpo consider the role of women to revolve around?
4. How is the advice Celie gives to Harpo when he comes to her with black eyes different from the first time he went to her?
5. Why is Sofia no longer satisfied by Harpo?
6. Why do Sofia’s sisters come to the creek cabin?
7. Do you think Harpo truly wants to let Sophia go? Why or why not?
8. What does Harpo do while Sofia is gone for 6 months? Why do you think he does this?
9. What is Harpo building?
10. Does Harpo think Sophia will come home with the children?
11. What is business like for Harpo’s jukebox during the first three weeks?
12. Why does Mr. allow Celie to attend Shug’s performance?
13. When Celie looks at Shug singing to Mr., how does Celie feel?
14. What does Shug do that allows Celie to feel valued?
15. What does Celie compare Shug leaving to?
16. When Celie tells Shug that Mr. beats her “for being me and not you”, Shug is surprised. Given that Old Mr. disapproves of Shug, is it possible that Mr. is displacing his anger onto Celie? How, in a sense, is Mr. humanized through this interaction?
17. Why do you think Shug calls Mr. weak?
18. Consider Celie’s developing feelings for Shug. After Shug asks Celie if she minds that Shug sleeps with Albert Celie thinks to herself “I don’t care who Albert sleep with” (77). Why is her reflection ironic?
19. Why does Shug consider Celie to be a virgin, despite the fact that she has two children?   
    What is Walker’s purpose in writing about sexual self-discovery?
20. Why does Celie cry while listening to Mr. and Shug?