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American Studies English

*The Color Purple*

**Guided Reading Questions**

**Pages 80-99**

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. Who is Buster?
2. How many children does Sofia have now?
3. Who is Squeak? What does this name suggest about her character?
4. What happens when Squeak meets Sofia?
5. Why is Sofia in jail?
6. Why do you think Sofia resorts to violence to when dealing with others?
7. How is Sofia treated in the jail?
8. What is Sofia’s job in prison?
9. Why is Sofia a good prisoner?
10. How long is Sofia’s jail sentence?
11. Who takes care of Sofia’s children while she is in jail?
12. Celie imagines God and angels saving Sofia. What words does she use to describe them? What is significant about this description, especially during this point in the narrative while Sofia is in jail for sassing the mayor’s wife?
13. Why is Squeak chosen to talk to the warden?
14. What is the plan for getting Sofia out of jail?
15. What words are used to describe Squeak’s clothes and pocketbook? What is significant about this description?
16. Before going to meet the warden, Shug says to Squeak, “Tell him you think justice ought to be done” (93). Why is this ironic?
17. Walker includes an allusion to *Uncle Tom’s Cabin,* an anti-slavery text, when Buster says the plan sounds like “Uncle Tomming” (acting in a cooperative way with an oppressor to avoid mistreatment) (94). Why do you think Walker includes this allusion?
18. What happens to Squeak when she meets with the warden? How is Squeak doubly oppressed?
19. Why do you think Squeak tells Harpo to call her by her real name, Mary Agnes?
20. What is Squeak’s new talent?
21. At first, Squeak sings Shug’s songs, but then makes up her own. Why do you think she begins to make up her own songs?