Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English

*The Color Purple*

**Guided Reading Questions**

**Pages 1-21**

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. What happens to Celie’s mother?
2. Why does Celie have trouble doing her chores?
3. Why does Celie say that God fathered and took her baby?
4. What does Celie believe happened to her baby?
5. What does Celie think happened to her second baby?
6. Why is Celie worried about her little sister?
7. How old is Pa’s girlfriend?
8. Who is Nettie?
9. Who is Nettie’s boyfriend, and how is he similar to Pa?
10. What happened to Mr.’s wife?
11. Why does Celie say she looks at women but not men?
12. Consider Pa’s behavior and how that may influence Celie’s opinion of men. Why do you think Celie doesn’t call Mr. by a name?
13. Why does Pa refuse to let Nettie marry Mr.?
14. Who is Shug Avery?
15. How does Celie describe Shug Avery?
16. How does Celie attempt to save Nettie from Pa’s sexual abuse while his new wife is sick?
17. What are the qualities that Celie's father speaks of when he tries to marry her off to Mr?
18. Why does Celie look at the picture of Shug when Pa and Mr. are talking about her?
19. How old is Celie now?
20. Why do Nettie and Celie spend so much time studying from Nettie’s schoolbooks?
21. Why does Celie stop attending school?
22. After Pa tells Mr. that Celie is good with kids, what is Mr. concerned about?
23. What is Celie’s wedding day like?
24. Why does Celie embrace Mr. on their wedding night?
25. Who does Celie see when she goes into town?
26. Why do you think Celie decides to give the daughter that was taken from her a name? What is the name she gives her?
27. What is the woman’s response when Celie asks who the little girl’s father is?
28. Why does Celie offer the woman and little girl a seat in Mr.’s wagon?
29. Even though the little girl’s name is Pauline, what does the woman call her? What is the significance of this?
30. Why does Nettie run away from home?
31. How does Nettie help Celie?
32. Why do you think Mr. says Nettie has to leave?
33. When Nettie tells Celie, “It’s like seeing you buried” (17) what does this suggest about Celie’s lifestyle with Mr?
34. What does Celie mean when she says, “As long as I can spell G-O-D I got somebody along”(17)?
35. Celie asks Nettie to write, and Nettie says, “Nothing but death can keep me from it” (18). Does Nettie write?
36. What is different about the way in which Celie introduces this letter?
37. Who are Carrie and Kate?
38. Why is Carrie critical of Annie Julia? What might this suggest about how she views women?
39. How did Mr. treat his first wife, Annie Julia?
40. Why do Carrie and Kate approve of Celie as their brother’s wife?
41. How do Carrie and Kate feel about Shug?
42. Why does Celie want a purple dress?
43. Why does Celie choose a blue dress?
44. Why is she excited about having a dress?
45. When Kate tells Celie, “You deserve more than this, Celie says “Maybe so” (22). How might this suggest the faint beginning of a change in Celie’s character?
46. Who is Harpo?
47. Why does Harpo think he shouldn’t have to help bring in water?
48. Why does Kate leave?