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

American Studies English

*The Color Purple*

**Guided Reading Questions**

**Pages 174-216**

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. According to story Samuel tells about a well-to-do farmer, why was his store burned down and the man and his two brothers dragged out of their homes and hanged?
2. The man’s wife had a baby who was barely two, and after her husband was died, a second baby was born. Who fathers her third baby?
3. According to the story, two years before she died she had two more children, named Olivia and Adam. One day, the “stranger” shows up with Olivia and Adam. What can you infer about who this “stranger” is?
4. What can you infer about who Olivia and Adam’s real mother is?
5. Nettie writes, “Pa is not our Pa”. Who can you infer is Nettie and Celie’s real father?
6. Where do Shug and Celie dress up to go?
7. Who is Daisy and what is her relationship with “Pa” like?
8. What is the reason “Pa” gives for not telling Celie about her real father?
9. When Nettie starts crying after hearing Samuel tell the story about how he adopted Adam and Olivia, he assumes the two children are Nettie’s. What does Nettie reveal to Corrine and Samuel on pages 184-185?
10. What is Nettie attempting to remind Corrine about by showing her the quilts?
11. What happens to Corrine after she says, “I believe” (187).
12. Celie decides to stop writing to God and write to Nettie instead. Why does she reject God?
13. Celies describes her God by saying, “He big and old and tall and graybearded and white. He wears white robes and go barefooted” (194). Shug says, “God is inside you and inside everybody else” (195) and “My first step from the old white man was trees. Then air. Then birds…I knew that if I cut a tree, my arm would bleed” (196). How does Shug’s view of God differ from Celie’s?
14. When Celie describes a dinner at Odessa’s house in a letter to Nettie, what is revealed about Sofia’s relationship with her family?
15. What does Shug announce to Mr.?
16. List three things that Celie forces Mr. to acknowledge on page 200.
17. Who else is Shug taking with her?
18. What is significant about Sofia leaving her own family to go help Eleanor Jane, Miz Millie’s daughter?
19. Who will watch Suzie Q, Squeak’s daughter, while she is gone?
20. When Mr. is trying to re-assert authority over Celie before she leaves he says, “You black, you pore, you ugly, you a woman. Godamn, he say, you nothing at all” (206). What different kinds of oppression are reflected in this comment?
21. Describe Shug’s house in Tennessee.
22. What does Celie make in the dining room? What are they symbolic of?
23. What do you notice about how Celie signs her letter on page 214?
24. Describe the pair of pants that Celie wants to make Sofia. What do the colors suggest?