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American Studies English

*The Color Purple*

**Guided Reading Questions**

**Pages 22-42**

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 surprising detail does Harpo reveal concerning his relationship with the woman he loves?
2. How does Mr. react to Shug coming to town?
3. What is the only reason why Celie wants to go to “The Queen Honeybee’s” show?
4. Why doesn’t Mr. come home for three days?
5. How are both Celie and Harpo affected by Mr.’s depression?
6. Why isn’t Harpo “good enough” to marry his girlfriend?
7. What is the subject of Harpo’s nightmares?
8. What is Harpo’s girlfriend’s name?
9. What has happened to Harpo’s girlfriend that causes him to say, “But if she big I got a right to be with her, good enough or no”(29)?
10. How does Mr. treat Harpo’s girlfriend?
11. How does Celie describe Sofia’s physical appearance?
12. How does Sofia react to Mr.’s rude behavior?
13. Why does Harpo move into the creek house?
14. After Sophia tells Harpo to hold his baby, Mr. says, “Yeah, I see now she going to switch the traces on you” (34), meaning that he thinks Sophia possesses what personality traits?
15. When Harpo is having a conversation with his father about how to make Sofia mind, what advice does Mr. give him?
16. Why do think Celie tells Harpo to beat Sophia?
17. What is the “crashing” sound that Celie hears coming from the creek house?
18. Harpo goes with Sophia and the children to visit Sophia’s sister, after he had previously told Mr. he had a problem with her going there. Who do you think has the power in this relationship? How might Harpo feel about this?
19. Why does Celie say, “I sin against Sofia spirit.”(40)?
20. Why does Sofia come marching up the path looking for Celie?
21. Why is Celie jealous of Sophia?
22. Why do you think Sophia threatens to kill Harpo even though she loves him?
23. In what ways does Celie remind Sofia of her mother?
24. Celie explains that she never gets angry about her position in life and she says, “This life soon be over…Heaven last always” (42). What does this suggest about her character?
25. What are Sophia and Celie going to make with the torn curtains? What might it symbolize?