



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Color Purple

Alice Walker

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

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Name _____

Vocabulary

gluttons (61)
 seining (71)
 haggard (95)

clabber (63)
 jukejoint (73)
 albinos (96)

draft (69)
 hefty (84)
 freakish (117)

amazons (71)
 grip (92)

Directions: Each vocabulary word is listed in the first column. Turn to the page in the novel on which the word is found to see how it is used, then complete the chart.

| Word | Part of Speech | Antonym | Synonym |
|--------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| 1. gluttons | | | |
| 2. clabber | | | |
| 3. draft | | | |
| 4. amazons | | | |
| 5. seining | | | |
| 6. jukejoint | | | |
| 7. hefty | | | |
| 8. grip | | | |
| 9. haggard | | | |
| 10. albinos | | | |
| 11. freakish | | | |

Name _____

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Starred questions indicate thought or opinion questions. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests.

Pages 1–19

1. *How old is Celie when she begins writing letters to God? Why does she do so? Why do you think she replaces “I am” with “I have always been”? Who do you think “he” is?
2. What happens to Celie’s mother? What does she ask Celie about before she dies? What does this question and Celie’s reply infer?
3. What does Celie think has happened to her babies?
4. Who is Nettie? Why is Celie concerned about her? What advice does she give her?
5. *What information is revealed about Mr. _____? Who do you think Shug Avery is?
6. *What does Celie’s father tell Mr. _____ about Celie? Explain how you think Celie feels as she overhears this conversation.
7. Why does Celie marry Mr. _____?
8. *Tell how many children Mr. _____ has and briefly describe them. What do you predict about Celie’s future as Mr. _____’s wife?
9. Where does Celie first see the child she believes to be hers? How old is the child? What is her name?
10. Why does Nettie come to live with Celie and Mr. _____? How does Mr. _____ react? Why does she leave? What advice does Celie give her?
11. *Why do you think the author includes graphic, controversial scenes in this section of the novel?
12. ***Prediction:** What will happen to Nettie? Will Celie ever hear from her again?

Pages 20–40

1. How do Mr. _____’s sisters react to Celie? What does Kate do for her? What does she advise Celie to do? How does Celie react?
2. *What question does Harpo ask his father? What is Mr. _____’s response? What do you think this reveals about both of them?
3. *How does Celie react when her husband beats her? Why do you think she does this?
4. *How does Mr. _____ react to the news of Shug Avery’s arrival? Identify the metaphor that describes Shug (p. 26) and explain what you think it means.
5. *How does Celie react to the news of Shug? If they ever meet, how do you think they will react to each other?

Name _____

Metaphors and Similes

A **metaphor** is a comparison between two unlike objects. For example, “he was a human tree.” A **simile** is a comparison between two unlike objects that uses the words *like* or *as*. For example, “the color of her eyes was like the cloudless sky.”

Directions: Complete the chart below by listing metaphors and similes from the novel, as well as the page numbers on which they are found. Identify metaphors with an “M” and similes with an “S.” Translate the comparisons in your own words, and then list the objects being compared.

| Metaphors/Similes | Ideas/Objects Being Compared |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Translation: | |
| 2. Translation: | |
| 3. Translation: | |

Name _____

Using Dialogue

Directions: Choose some dialogue from the book. Fill in the chart to evaluate the purpose of the dialogue and whether or not it is effective in moving along the plot.

