 Refers to links on [www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

### Letter 16

- ❖ Add some information to Harpo's character sheet.
- ❖ Why do you think Celie describes Harpo as womanly?
  - Do you agree with her assessment?

### Letter 17

- ❖ On a blank piece of paper, start a spidergram about the character of Sofia, making deductions about her character, with evidence to support each one. (Keep this for future notes.)
- ❖ You may, if you wish, make an additional character sheet with two columns to compare and contrast the characters of Harpo and Sofia
- ❖ Outline the reactions of the men to Sofia over the course of letters 17-21
  - Explain why they respond to her in the way they do.

### Letter 18

- ❖ How does Alice Walker portray strong female characters in the novel?
  - Start a two-column list with Sofia, then her sisters, in the left hand column with a matching characteristic in the right hand column.
  - Add other strong women characters as they appear in the story.

### Letter 19

- ❖ How would you describe the relationship between Harpo and Sofia?
  - How does it compare to that between Celie and Mr\_ ?

### Letter 20

- ❖ What have you learnt so far about traditional notions of masculinity and the role of the husband?

### Letter 21

- ❖ How far does Alice Walker mean us to see women as victims of society in letters 1 to 21?
- ❖ Why do you think Celie says she has sinned against Sofia's spirit?

### Letter 22

- ❖ What effect does Shug Avery have on the townsfolk?
  - Why do they condemn her?
- ❖ What effect do you think Shug's arrival has on Fonso and Sofia?

### Letter 23

- ❖ What do you think Celie means by saying that:
  - Shug is too evil to die?
  - Celie's own mother wasn't evil enough to survive?

### Letter 24


- ❖ Why do you think Albert is squeamish about bathing Shug?
- ❖ What is the significance of the way in which Shug teases Celie in this episode?

### Letter 25

- ❖ Many of the novel's characters take notice of the lightness or darkness of the skin of others. What do these degrees of darkness symbolise to them?
  - Make a list of incidents where this is evident.

### Letter 26

- ❖ Why do you think Celie feels that Shug's tune is sinful?

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# Investigate *The Color Purple*, Letters 16-30

### Letter 27

- ❖ Fill in some more information on your 'Religious beliefs and behaviour' table (refer back to Letter 4 for headings and layout)
- ❖ Make a new table on a fresh sheet of paper where you can note references to 'Quilts and sewing' throughout the novel.

### Letter 28

- ❖ In this letter, what do you learn about Sofia's feelings about Harpo?
- ❖ What is revealed about Celie's relationship with Sofia?

### Letter 29

- ❖ Add some more information to your evidence list about traditional notions of masculinity and the role of the husband
- ❖ Why is it so important to Harpo to make Sofia 'mind' him?

### Letter 30

- ❖ Note the differences between Sofia and Celie's responses to lovemaking with their respective husbands.