

✕ Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Letter 46

- ❖ Add to your character notes on Shug and Celie from this chapter
- ❖ What point is Walker making about black and white social status?

Letter 47

- ❖ In this episode, how do the protagonists cross traditional gender boundaries?
- ❖ Make a list of Shug's masculine and feminine qualities.

Letter 48

- ❖ Look again at Shug's comments about 'the devil's music'. Why do you think Shug describes blues and jazz in this way?

Letter 49

- ❖ Begin a new sheet of A4 headed 'Letters from Nettie' and add a short synopsis of the content of each one as it appears
- ❖ What do you notice about the style of Nettie's prose in comparison with Celie's?

Letter 50

- ❖ This letter tells the reader a great deal about Shug Avery's previous life experience. Add more notes to your Shug Avery character sheet
- ❖ Is Shug right to describe Albert as 'weak'?

Letter 51

- ❖ The trunk is full of items that 'mean something' to Albert. Imagine you are a psychoanalyst and explain
 - How Albert might justify the significance of each item
 - What the retention of each demonstrates about his conscious/unconscious motives
- ❖ What is the significance of dealing with the letters in Shug and Grady's bedroom rather than Celie and Albert's?

Letter 52

- ❖ What light does this letter throw on the recent revelations about Albert?
 - How is Walker shaping our perceptions of him?

Letter 53

- ❖ 'I think about the time you laid yourself down for me.' To what is Nettie referring?
 - This is an echo of the Bible passages John 15:12-13
 - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/bible/john/15> and John 10:11
 - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/bible/john/10>
 - What does this allusion add to the power of what Nettie is saying?

Letter 54

- ❖ Begin two new character sheets, one for Corrine and the other for Samuel
- ❖ Do some research on the 'sanctified church movement' in America
- ❖ Why does Samuel think it is wrong to interfere in Albert and Celie's marriage?
 - How does this differ to modern western attitudes towards abuse within marriage?

✕ Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Letter 55

- ❖ Begin a new style sheet for comparing the writing styles of Celie and Nettie. You should examine:
 - Diction
 - Use of dialect
 - Standard and non-standard forms and spellings
 - Sentence construction
 - Figurative language etc.
- Add other stylistic features you discover as you research further.

Letter 56

- ❖ Do some research on the white subjects of the pictures in the Missionary Society
 - John Hanning Speke (1827-64)
 - David Livingstone (1813-73)
 - Sir Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904)
- ❖ Add some details from this letter to your character notes on Nettie, Corrine and Samuel
- ❖ Do you think that racial prejudice is represented as entirely one-sided in the narrative so far?

Letter 57

- ❖ What do you notice about the comparisons and contrasts between England and America (see chapter 56) in their attitude to slavery and coloured people?

Letter 58

- ❖ Reread and revise the first half of the novel. How favourable is the view of organised religion presented so far in the narrative? Put your points and evidence into two columns, positive and negative

- ❖ How do you account for the attitude of the Senegalese towards Nettie, Samuel and Corrine?

Letter 59

- ❖ In what ways does this letter illustrate the deepening ties between Shug and Celie?

Letter 60

- ❖ Add to your character notes on Albert, Shug and Celie.