**What is the plot summary of The Color Purple?**

"The Color Purple" follows an African-American teenager named Celie being raised in rural Georgia in the early 1900s. Through letters written by Celie to God, we follow her struggle with an abusive father, a teenage pregnancy, and abusive marriage. The novel documents triumphs in the face of adversity, particularly the struggle against gender inequality and racism.

**What is The Color Purple mainly about?**

The novel is mainly about the protagonist Celie and her struggles with different forms of abuse throughout her life. She is first abused by her stepfather and then by her husband before she eventually finds the strength to leave him through her romantic relationship with jazz singer Shug Avery.

**What does purple symbolize in The Color Purple?**

Purple symbolizes the beauty of life and is what Shug Avery uses to point out to Celie that God has created beauty he doesn't want us to ignore.

**What is the main theme of "The Color Purple"?**

The novel's main theme is about identity- Celie's identity as a Black woman, as a mother, a wife, a stepmother, as Shug Avery's lover, and eventually as an independent businesswoman.

**"The Color Purple" by Alice Walker**

"The Color Purple" was written by [Alice Walker](https://study.com/learn/lesson/alice-walker-biography-books-poems.html) and published in 1982 and became an immediate classic. The following year, it won a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award, and because of its notoriety, became the target of criticism and censures worldwide.

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**"The Color Purple" Summary**

The novel begins with the protagonist, Celie, a fourteen-year-old African-American girl living in **rural Georgia**. She starts writing letters to God because she thinks no one else will listen to her because she is the victim of abuse from her father, Alphonso. This abuse results in her first having a baby boy, **Adam**, who Alphonso takes from her after birth and leads Celie to believe he's killed him. Celie ends up pregnant again due to this abuse and has a second child, a daughter named **Olivia**. Celie's mother refuses to help her during any of this, blaming her and cursing her existence with her dying breath. Alphonso also takes Olivia away from Celie at birth. He then arranges a marriage for Celie with a man named **Mister,** whose wife has died and wants someone new to take care of him, his house, and his children. Mister perpetuates the [cycle of abuse](https://study.com/learn/lesson/cycle-of-abuse-phases-theory.html) that Celie is already familiar with. Even though Mister is abusive, Celie's younger sister Nettie runs away from Alphonso and takes refuge with Celie and Mister, where Mister then abuses Nettie. Because of this, Celie tries to help Nettie find help elsewhere, sending her to a wealthy Black woman who lives in their town. Nettie leaves, and because Celie doesn't hear from her after, she assumes her sister is dead.

The novel then picks up with Celie talking about one of Mister's children, **Harpo**, who impregnates a local girl named **Sofia** and subsequently marries her. They have five children together. Harpo turns out to be like his father and tries to abuse Sofia. Sofia defies and fights back, inspiring Celie to do the same with Mister after many conversations with Sofia. Sofia leaves Harpo because of this abuse and takes all five of their children with her.