

Heading:



**Kim**  
Pg. 1 - 4

### Grade Level Reading Questions: Part I

Focus: characterization, setting,  
point of view

Answer all questions in a COMPLETE SENTENCE(S) unless asked to list.

1. What is the setting? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the setting tell you about the neighborhood? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does Kim plant the beans? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How does Kim's home reflect their Vietnamese culture? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the best **summary** statement for this chapter?

- A. Kim sneaks out of her house and goes to the vacant lot across the street from her apartment. She digs six holes and plants lima beans to connect with her farmer father.
- B. Kim looks at the photo of her father and is sad that she has no memories of him. He died before she was born, yet her mother and sister cry over the loss still.
- C. Kim is sad that she never knew her father who died before she was born. In an effort to connect with her farmer father, she plants lima beans in the dirty, rundown vacant lot near her house.
- D. Kim hears her mother and sister crying on the anniversary of her father's death. Because she is sad that she never know him, Kim begins to cry too.

6. From what **point of view** is this chapter told? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is a pronoun? \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL PRONOUNS		
	Singular	Plural
First Person	I, me <i>my, mine</i>	we, us <i>our, ours</i>
Second Person	you <i>your, yours</i>	you <i>your, yours</i>
Third Person	he, she, it him, her <i>his, her, hers, its</i>	they, them <i>their, theirs</i>

8. List 5 ***different*** first person pronouns from this chapter. Include the page # in ( ).

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ana**  
pg. 5 - 10

Focus: figurative language, stereotyping,  
foreshadowing



1. The neighborhood is described as being "like a cheap hotel"? This is an example of:  
A. metaphor      B. simile      C. personification      D. hyperbole

2. Why is it like a cheap hotel?

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3. What does Ana think the little girl, Kim, is doing in the vacant lot?

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4. You can **conclude** that Ana believes that...
- young people in her neighborhood are often up to no good.
  - she needs to help the police catch criminals.
  - she should move to a better neighborhood.
  - she should continue to keep spying on the lot to find more criminal activity
5. Which passage from the chapter best supports the idea that Ana feels terrible about digging up Kim's beans? (circle all that apply)
- I thought of calling up the police. Then I saw her there the next morning, and I decided I'd solve the case myself.
  - I couldn't see what she was doing. My curiosity was like a fever inside me.
  - Then the truth of it slapped me full in the face. I said to myself, "What have you done?"
  - I felt like I'd read through her secret diary and had ripped out a page without meaning to.

6. Why does Ana get binoculars? Think carefully!!(symbolism & theme)

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7. What **tense** is this chapter written in? \_\_\_\_\_

8. List 5 **past tense verbs** from this chapter – don't forget the **helping verb** if there is one! Put the page # in ( ).

- |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. |    |





1. Why is Wendell sad? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is Wendell's relationship to Ana? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does this tell you about Wendell? (indirect characterization)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. From Kim's reaction to seeing Wendell watering her plants, you can **infer** –
  - A. that Kim knows and doesn't like Wendell.
  - B. that Wendell doesn't do nice things for people very often.
  - C. that Kim is scared because in this neighborhood there are not many acts of kindness.
  - D. that Kim is angry that Wendell has discovered her garden but is too afraid to say so.
5. What is the **allusion** in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does he learn (**theme**) from Kim when he thinks..."And a child shall lead them"? (15)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. At the end of the chapter you can **conclude**
  - A. that Wendell no longer feels sorry for himself and plans to make positive changes in his life.
  - B. that Wendell will no longer allow Ana to boss him around.
  - C. that Kim is so scared that she will never come back to water her seeds again.
  - D. that Wendell will never go back to the vacant lot again.
8. What is something in your life that you can change for the better? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Regular verbs** form past and past participle (uses the helping verbs *have, has, had*) by just adding -ed to the present form of the verb. Like this: (this is called **conjugation!**)

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past participle</u>
talk	talked	(have) talked
jump	jumped	(has) jumped

**Irregular verbs** do **NOT** form past and past participle (uses the helping verbs *have, has, had*) by just adding -ed to the present form of the verb. Instead the word changes or stays the same. Like this:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past participle</u>
sing	sang	(have) sung
drink	drank	(has) drunk
put	put	(had) put

**Conjugate** the following verbs from this chapter of *Seedfolks*. *The first one is done for you.*

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>	<u>Regular or Irregular?</u>
1. ring (11)	<u>rang</u>	<u>rung</u>	<u>I</u>
2. _____	ran (12)	_____	_____
3. look (12)	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	found (12)	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	have thought (13)	_____
6. _____	pointed (13)	_____	_____
6. _____	scraped (14)	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	had seen (14)	_____
8. go (14)	_____	_____	_____
9. change (15)	_____	_____	_____
10. _____	walked (16)	_____	_____



**Gonzalo**  
pg. 17 - 22

Focus: characterization, figurative language,  
theme



1. On page 17 Gonzalo says, "The older you are, the younger you get when you move to the United States." What does he mean by this?

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2. What can Gonzalo do that his father and great-uncle cannot?

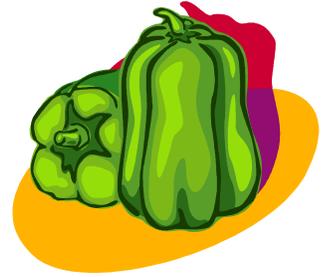
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3. What can the great uncle do that Gonzalo cannot?

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4. Which words help you understand what the word **bodega** means?

- A. down the block
- B. only buy food
- C. lowered his eyes
- D. mumbles and smiles



5. What is Gonzalo's great-uncle's life like before the garden?

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6. What is his life like after he finds the garden? (theme)

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7. List 10 **regular verbs** from this chapter. Put the page number after the verb in ( ).

- |    |    |    |    |     |
|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5.  |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |

8. List 10 **irregular verbs** from this chapter. Put the page number after the verb in ( ).

- |    |    |    |    |     |
|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5.  |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |

Leona  
pg. 23 - 28

Focus: irony, symbolism, figurative language



1. How does Leona get the trash removed?

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2. What does this tell you about her? (indirect characterization)

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Explain these **symbols**:

3. goldenrod:

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4. trash bag:

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5. saxophone key:

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6. You can **conclude** that the people in Leona's neighborhood are **stereotyped** as

- A. poor, uncaring slobs who don't care if their neighborhood is dirty
- B. hard-working immigrants who need a bit of help
- C. unhealthy people who need medical care
- D. spoiled, ungrateful people who don't deserve any help

7. What is **ironic** about Leona's taking the bag of trash to the Public Health Department?

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A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, or thing and is always capitalized.

Taylor Swift

Austin, Texas

Wednesday

Seedfolks

8. List 5 **proper nouns** from this chapter. Put the page number after the proper noun in ( ).

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



1. Sam compares himself to a \_\_\_\_\_ mending \_\_\_\_\_ (metaphor) because he tries to mend or “fix” the world. He hopes the \_\_\_\_\_ will “fix” the neighborhood by bringing the people together.

2. Why does Sam compare the garden to the Garden of Eden? (allusion)

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3. Instead of being paradise, how is the garden beginning to reflect problems in general society? List 3 problems happening in the garden: (**irony**)

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the best **ending** for this **summary** of this chapter?

Sam, a retired social worker, is excited about the garden. He sees it as an opportunity to bring all the different people of the neighborhood together. Sam works in the garden with people of different cultures and believes that it is a Garden of Eden.

- A. People threw trash out their windows and into the garden.
- B. A homeless man, unhappy that the couch had been removed from the lot, ripped out people’s plants.
- C. Sam had to haul water to the garden in a wagon because there was not water in the vacant lot.
- D. Sam discovers, however, that the garden is merely a small version of the neighborhood with all its segregation, distrust, and troubles.

5. Sam sees the garden as a “paradise,” a place of perfection. What is “paradise” to you?

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6. Vocabulary: matching - write the letter on the line.

A. herring(29)

B. pacifism

C. Garden of Eden (32)

D. spigot (32)

E. coolies (33)

F. Tower of Babel (35)

\_\_\_ an unskilled laborer employed cheaply.

\_\_\_ a type of fish

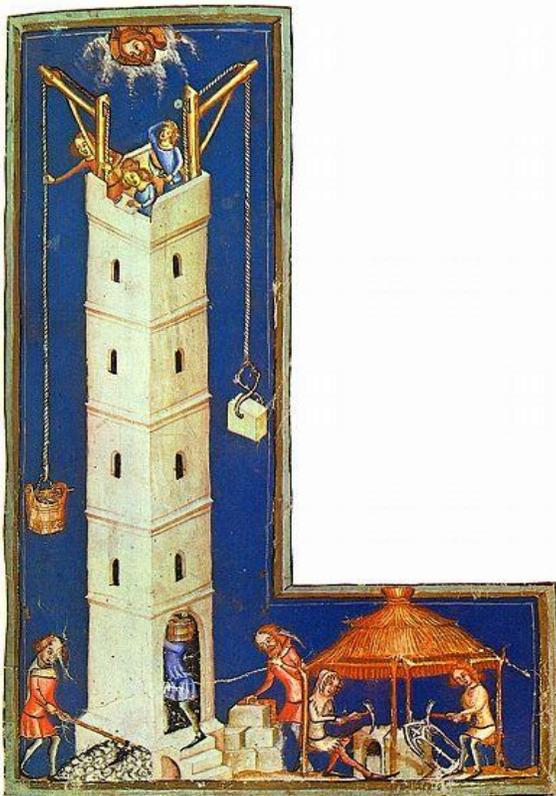
\_\_\_ according to the Bible, there was an enormous tower built at the city of Babylon. The book of Genesis then relates how God, displeased with the builders' intent, came down and confused their languages and scattered the people throughout the earth

\_\_\_ opposition to war or violence as a means of resolving disputes.

\_\_\_ in the Old Testament Book of Genesis a biblical earthly paradise; any state or place of complete peace and happiness.

\_\_\_ a faucet for controlling the flow of liquid from a pipe or the like.

Understanding **allusion**...



The narrative of the city of Babel is recorded in [Genesis 11:1-9](#). Everyone on earth spoke the same language. As people migrated from the east, they settled in the land of Shinar. People there sought to make bricks and build a city and a tower with its top in the sky, to make a name for themselves, so that they not be scattered over the world. God came down to look at the city and tower, and remarked that as one people with one language, nothing that they sought would be out of their reach. God went down and confounded their speech, so that they could not understand each other, and scattered them over the face of the earth, and they stopped building the city. Thus the city was called [Babel](#).

Virgil  
p.36

Focus: figurative language,  
characterization,  
symbolism, allusion



1. Which word BEST describes Virgil's father? (circle your answer)

creative                      greedy                      happy                      clever

2. Give two pieces of evidence from the chapter that proves your choice above.

A.

B.

2. When Virgil's father is talking to Miss Fleck about the garden he is planting, you can tell that Virgil is...

- A. used to hearing his father lie.
- B. shocked to hear his father lie to his old teacher.
- C. glad his father is able to plant such a large plot of land.
- D. proud of his father for thinking up such a creative story.



3. What do you think of Virgil's father and his plan for the garden?

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4. Explain the **symbolism** of the locket. \_\_\_\_\_

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In ancient Greek religion and myth, Demeter is the goddess of the harvest, who presided over grains and the fertility of the earth.

Sae  
Young  
p.45

Focus: dialect, internal and external conflict



1. What awful events happens to Sae Young?

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2. How does Sae Young speak? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What does this **dialect** tell the reader about her? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the problem in the garden? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Who solves the problem and how?

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6. Which character from the novel would you say Sae Young is most like?

- Kim   Ana   Wendell   Gonzalo   Tio Juan   Leona   Sam   Virgil

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Correct Sae Young’s dialect!

*That man named Sam. He’s American man and talk to everyone. Very smart. When people all the time complain about carrying water, he start contest. He said how adults couldn’t solve problem, let children try. He say he give twenty dollars to child under twelve who has best idea. He write this on paper and nail to post close to sidewalk (48).*

Rewrite this paragraph correcting all the mistakes.

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Curtis  
p.51

Focus: dynamic character, allusion, dialect, theme  
Irony, stereotype



1. Why is Curtis growing the tomatoes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is Royce? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. In what ways has Curtis changed over the years? (**dynamic character**)  
Give specific examples.

THEN	NOW
1.	1.
2.	2.

4. How does the author create a unique **dialect** for Curtis?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does this reveal about him? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Cite specific examples of **dialect** for Curtis.

a.

b.

c.

6. What is one **theme** from this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Prepositions** begin **prepositional phrases** which help add detail and description to writing.

I found him a place closer **to my tomatoes** but hidden **by somebody's corn**, so the cops wouldn't see him sacked out. I bought him a brand new sleeping bag. I gave him money **for food** that week. Then I picked up a pitchfork **for three dollars at a junk shop**. His part **of the deal** was that if he saw or heard anyone mess **with my tomatoes**, he'd come **at 'em** full speed, holding the pitchfork.

Common prepositions include:

About	At	Down	Of	To
Above	Before	During	Off	Toward
Across	Behind	For	On	Under
After	Below	From	Out	Until
Against	Beside	In	Over	Up
Along	Between	Into	Past	Upon
Among	Beyond	Like	Round	With
Around	By	Near	Through	Without

Cite 5 **prepositional phrases** from the chapter of "Curtis."

Example: ..."with six little tomato plants..." (53)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



1. Read the following dictionary entry.

**pram** [prahm] noun  
1. a flat-bottomed, snub-nosed boat used as a fishing vessel  
2. baby carriage - a cot-like four-wheeled carriage for a baby  
3. acronym for parallel random-access machine.

Which definition matches the word pram as used on pg. 59?

- A. Definition 1
- B. Definition 2
- C. Definition 3

2. How does Nora help Mr. Myles participate in the garden?

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3. What does this reveal about her character? (indirect characterization)

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4. What effect does the garden have on Nora and Mr. Myles?

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5. The statement that best **summarizes** the **theme** of this chapter is:

- A. Friends need to work together.
- B. When given a purpose, what seems to be and old and useless can become renewed and useful.
- C. Nora is kind and works hard to care for Mr. Myles.
- D. Flowers are the best thing to plant in a garden.

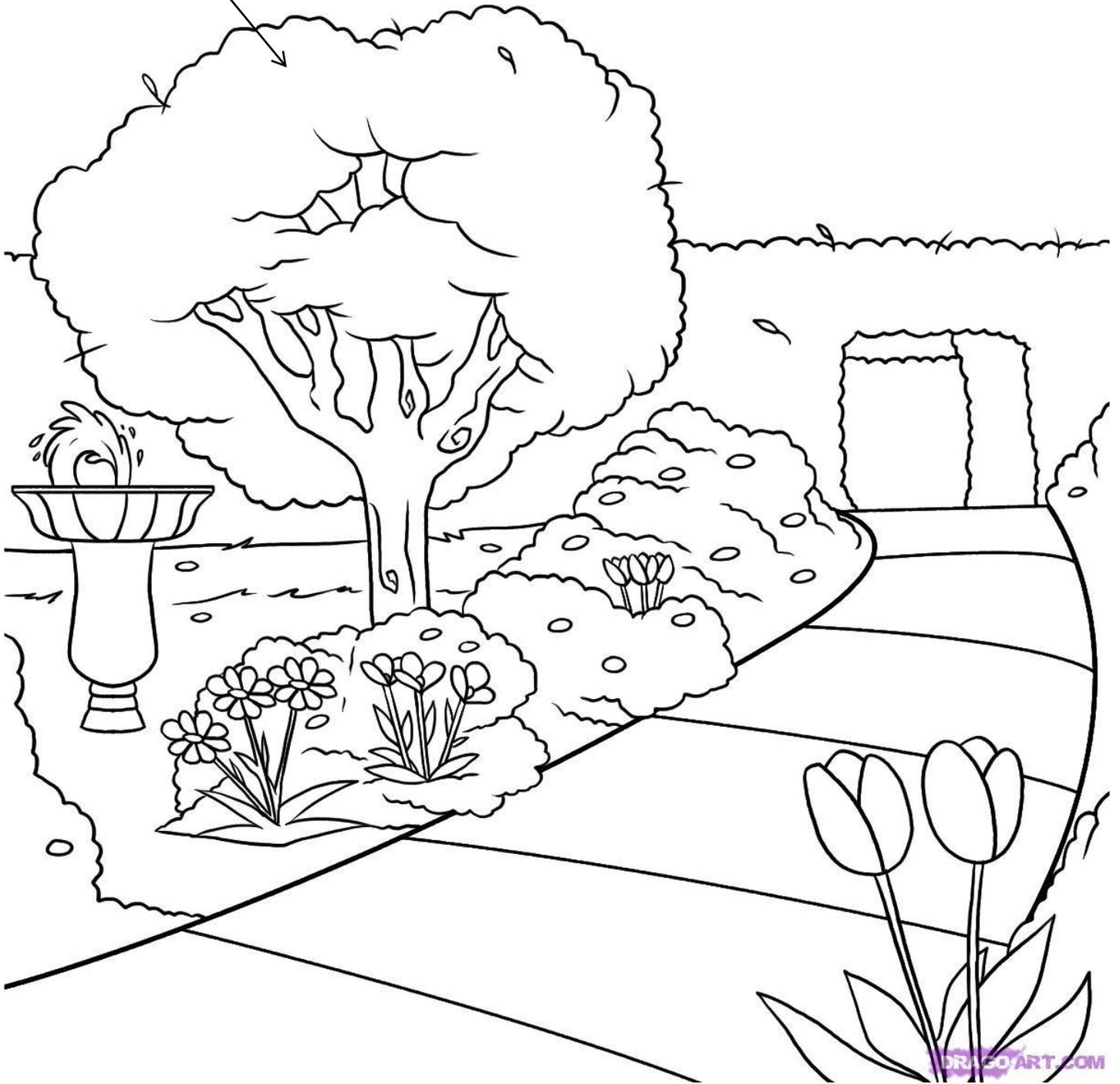
6. Nora shows great care and kindness to Mr. Myles. Think of something kind you could do for someone else. Explain what it is.

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Add 10 items to this garden with **prepositional phrases**. For example, you could draw an apple here and beside it write "in the tree."



Maricela

p. 66

**Focus: tone, stereotype, theme, allusion**



1. What is the **tone** at the beginning of the chapter?

\_\_\_\_\_

At the end? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you best describe Maricela? (circle all that apply)

happy      content      angry      pleasant      unhappy      energetic

3. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the **allusion** at the bottom of pg.66? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did the author include this allusion? What does it help the reader understand?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. From information in the chapter, you can conclude that the stereotype of teen moms is

- A. that they make terrible mothers and don't take care of their babies.
- B. they are extremely careful during pregnancy to care for the baby.
- C. they love to garden and eat the healthy vegetables.

7. What does Leona help Maricela understand? (theme)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Underline the **prepositional phrases** in the following passage:

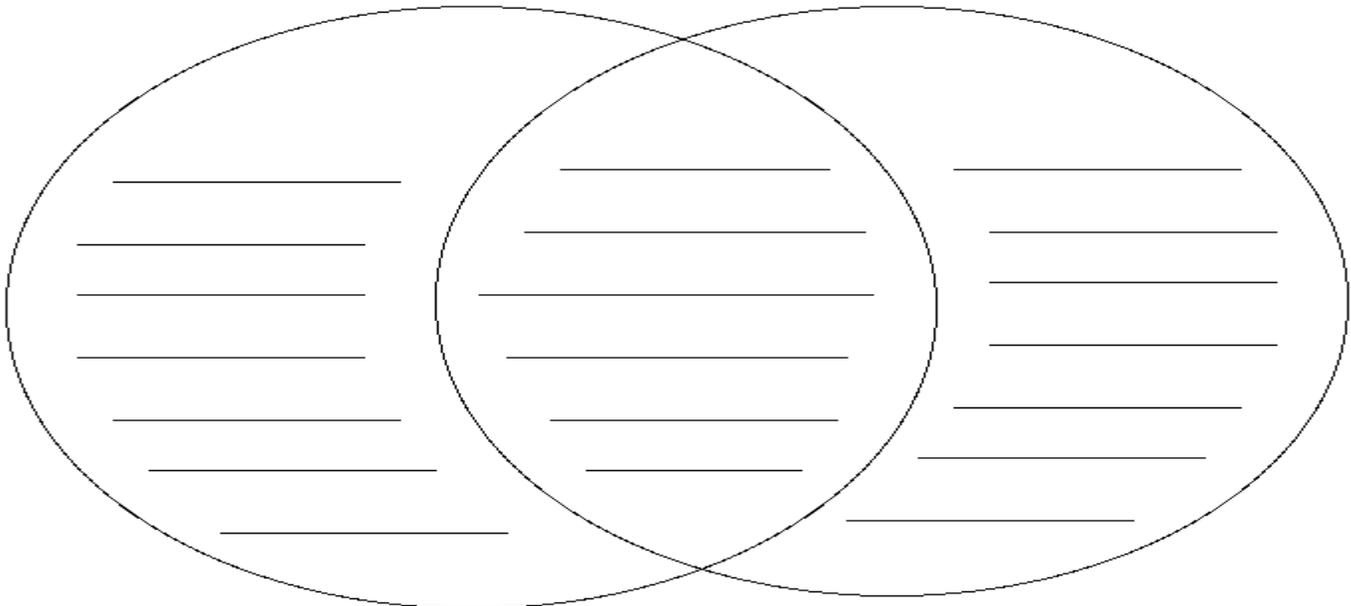
Sometimes this black guy ran through our garden. He couldn't take the time to go around. He grew lettuce, or tried to. Most of it was dead. He'd drive up in a cab, slam on the brakes like the Pope just stepped in front of him, run through our squash, cut a bunch of lettuce, and run back with it in a bucket of water. Then he'd peel out, leaving lots of rubber.



1. How does Amir compare and contrast India and America?

America

India



Amir makes some powerful comments/observations in his chapter about the neighborhood and society. Match the quotes from the text with their meanings.

\_\_\_ 2. "Here you have a million crabs living in a million crevices." (73)

\_\_\_ 3. "the gardens greatest benefit... was to make the eyes see our neighbors." (74)

\_\_\_ 4. "I realize how useless was all I that I'd heard about Poles, how much richness it hid, like the worthless shell around an almond." (77)

\_\_\_ 5. "And we gave food away, as we often did...even I...trained to give away nothing to always make a profit..." (80)

A. It is important to really see and get to know the people who live in your community.

B. The garden teaches the neighbors to be generous with each other.

C. In the US people tend to keep to themselves and not know their neighbors

D. When you get to know a person, you treat them better; it is easier to be mean if you don't know them.

\_\_\_ 6. “she called me a ‘dirty foreigner’...  
She apologized to me ...saying,  
‘back then, I didn’t know it was  
you...” ( 81)

E. Stereotyping people  
keeps you from getting to  
know the value and beauty  
of the true person hidden  
inside.

6. The garden helps the neighborhood see beyond the **stereotypes** they have of each other's cultures. The character of Royce is a good **symbol** of this change.

A. What do people think of Royce when they first see him in the garden?

B. What do they realize about him when they get to know him?

7. **Cite** (author’s exact words in quotation marks followed by the page number in parentheses) two examples of proof for this conclusion:

Conclusion	Proof
The garden is beginning to bring the people of the neighborhood together where they help and enjoy each other.	A.
	B.

Write a **preposition poem** about the garden.

A preposition poem consists of lines made up of prepositional phrases. Look at the example, and then write a preposition poem (at least 8 lines) about or describing the Gibb Street garden.

Example:

Write your poem here.

Down the lane,  
Across the bridge,  
Along the road,  
Into the village.

Through the lights,  
Past the church,  
At the fence,  
Out of the village.

Up the hill,  
Under branches of trees,  
Between flowers and fields  
Beyond my house.

That's where you'll find me.

**Florence**  
p.82

**Focus: figurative language, theme**



1. What does Florence mean by "seedfolks"?

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2. Tell two themes revealed in this chapter:

A.

B.



child's sampler

3. Even though she cannot work in the garden, Florence is proud of it because

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4. How did this book begin? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How does this book end? \_\_\_\_\_

Read "From Seed to Seedfolks" Pgs. 89 - 103

1. Why did the author choose this title for the book?

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