

Your Name: <u>Tanzeel Ahmad</u>	Your Book Club Novel: <b>The color purple</b>
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**PART ONE:** Brainstorm a list of **TOPICS/MOTIFS** from the novel

- A **Topic/Motif** in a work of literature is a distinctive feature or dominant idea.
- Consider how the topic is developed in the novel.
- For example, does the author use main or subordinate characters, objects of symbolic value, narrative perspective and/or repeated literary devices?

You may have considered some of the following motifs during your reflections and discussions about your novel:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the journey from innocence to experience</li> <li>● parent-child relationships</li> <li>● culture and identity</li> <li>● victimization and empowerment</li> <li>● self-respect vs. accepted group beliefs</li> <li>● self-discovery and self-actualization</li> <li>● gender identity/roles and self-discovery</li> <li>● motif of memory</li> <li>● guilt, healing, and atonement</li> </ul>	<p><u>Your Topic Ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Sexual identity</u></li> <li>- <u>Meaning behind the title of the book (what does purple have to do with anything?)</u></li> <li>- <u>Cellie and self growth</u></li> <li>- <u>Women's rights in the book</u></li> <li>- <u>Shug avery and how she potentially saved cellie.</u></li> </ul>
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**PART TWO:** **DESIGN YOUR OWN ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**

Begin brainstorming by considering **why and how the topic is significant**. Think about the following **sample essential questions** ([and look here for more ideas](#)) in order to design 3 questions that apply to your novel's main topics.

**Some Essential Questions To Consider:**

- In a culture where we are bombarded with ideas and images of “what we should be,” how does one form an identity that remains true and authentic for her/himself?
- In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to define us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?
- What turning points determine our individual pathways to adulthood?
- What does \_\_\_\_\_ reveal about the human condition?
- What does \_\_\_\_\_ reveal about the way people treat each other?
- What does \_\_\_\_\_ reveal about our ability to love?

**Your own 3 Essential Questions:**

1. Why is there prejudice in this book?
- 2.

**PART THREE: From Topic to Theme Statement to Answer your Essential Question:**

**CAUSE and EFFECT** + **CATALYST** ⇒ **IMPACT/ SO WHAT?**

= topic/problem and its impact in the story

=possible solutions to the problem

=what is the **impact** of this solution? How does it **affect** the **MOWAW?**(meaning of the work as a whole)

These 3 elements should all help to answer your Essential Question.

**Example for *The Kite Runner*:**

**Topic/Motif:** the journey from innocence to experience

**Essential Question:** What role do the mistakes of the past play in defining one's future as a mature, self-actualized individual?

**Theme Statement:** In the novel *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, the author suggests that the **mistakes of inexperience** may be **atoned for through works of good deeds**, ultimately **resulting in wisdom**.

**So, in this example essay with this theme/thesis statement:**

**Body Paragraph 1:** would examine the mistakes of inexperience and prove their significant impact on the protagonist

**Body Paragraph 2:** would examine the protagonist's transition from selfish to selfless and its impact

**Body Paragraph 3:** would examine the "so what?" of the protagonist's transformation - how has his shift in focus (from inward to outward) helped him to achieve wisdom? What does this wisdom look like?

Using your Essential Questions, brainstorm out possible **Causes and Effects, Catalysts and Impacts/Outcomes?** for your novel:

**Cause and Effect**

**Catalyst**

**Impact/ So What?**

- The relationships between all the women in the story and how they always tried to help each other.
- How some of the relationships in the story saved others.
- Men beating their wives and poorly mistreating them all the time.
- The obvious sexism and racism all throughout the novel.
- Celie being abused her whole life (sexually, physically and emotionally.)
- Celie was not able to go to school after a certain age but her sister Nettie was.
- The constant body shaming of Celie. Her father calling her fat as a child all the time.
- Nettie and Celie being separated and having to write to each other.
- Nettie teaches Celie all that she learns at school so Celie can feel included and learn the basics.

- The catalyst of the story is Shug Avery or also known as Mr. T's lover.
- At first Shug was just someone that Celie looked up to but later in the novel they became very close and allowed Celie to eventually build enough courage to stand up to Albert and his family.
- Everytime Shug visited Albert and Celie after a tour it would significantly help the situation as Albert would be happier and treat Celie better.
- Sophia could also be considered a catalyst of the story as she also had a part in Celie's personal growth.
- Although she did not have as much of an influence as Shug did Sophia did still show Celie how to not take anyone's crap. She stood up to the mayor's wife and to Harpo even when it was basically a rule that women weren't allowed to do so.

- Shug definitely had the biggest impact on Celie and ultimately made her into who she was at the end of the novel.
- Shug became almost like a guardian angel and taught Celie how to stand up for herself and how to believe in herself.
- Sophia contributed to Celie's personal growth as well which helped give Celie the courage to leave Albert and start her business.

Mix and match 3 different elements in order to create your full Theme Statement. Using your **Triple Entry Notebook**, find at least four quotations for each element.

**Draft Theme Statement:**

In the novel the *Color Purple*, Alice Walker suggests that the **harsh treatment** that women endure in a misogynistic society may be alleviated **through strong supportive female relationships**, fostering **a more positive sense of self-worth and assertiveness**.

**Body Paragraph 1:** would examine the privilege and injustice in the novel and prove the significant impact it had on Cellie.

**Body Paragraph 2:** would examine the progression of the protagonist's relationships and its impact

**Body Paragraph 3:** would examine the "so what?" of the protagonist's transformation - how has his shift in focus (from inward to outward) helped him to achieve resistance? What does this resistance look like?

## **PART FOUR: Finding Quotations to match Your Theme Statement**

Using your T.E.N.s and Peer Reflections, consider quotations that will help to prove each part of your theme statement. During this planning stage, I would recommend 4-5 quotations for each area of your theme statement so you have options during your drafting stages.

QUOTATIONS for Cause and Effect	QUOTATIONS for Catalyst	QUOTATIONS for Overall Impact/ So What?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Wives is like children. You have to let 'em know who got the upper hand. Nothing can do that better than a good sound beating". (Walker, 29)</li> <li>• "When a woman marry she spose to keep a decent house and a clean family." (20)</li> <li>• ""Young womens no good these days, he say. Got they legs open to every Tom, Dick and Harry." (27)</li> <li>• "He beat me like he beat the children. Cept he don't never hardly beat them. He say, Celie, git the belt. The children be outside the room peeking through the cracks. It all I can do not to cry. I make</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She say, I love you, Miss Celie. And then she haul off and kiss me on the mouth. Um, she say, like she surprise. I kiss her back, say, um, too. Us kiss and kiss till us can't hardly kiss no more. Then us touch each other. (65)</li> <li>• All day long I act just like Sofia. I stutter. I mutter to myself. I stumble bout the house crazy for Mr. ____ blood. In my mind, he falling dead every which a way. By time night come, I can't speak. Every time I open my mouth nothing come out but a little burp. (67)</li> <li>• After all the evil he done I know you wonder why I don't hate him. I don't hate him for two reasons. One, he love Shug. And two, Shug use to love him. Plus, look like he</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My mama die, I tell Shug. My sister Nettie run away. Mr. ____ come git me to take care his rotten children. He never ast me nothing bout myself. He clam on top of me and fuck and fuck, even when my head bandaged. Nobody ever love me, I say.(65)</li> <li>• When I found out I thought God was white, and a man, I lost interest. You mad cause he don't seem to listen to your prayers. Humph! Do the mayor listen to anything colored say? Ask Sofia, she say. (98)</li> <li>• Celie is coming to Memphis with me. Over my dead body, Mr. ____ say. You satisfied that what you want, Shug say, cool as clabber.</li> </ul>

myself wood. I say to myself, Celie, you a tree. That's how come I know trees fear man." (22)

- "You ever hit her? Mr. \_\_\_\_ ast.  
Harpo look down at his hands. Naw suh, he say low, embarrass.  
Well how you spect to make her mind? Wives is like children. You have to let 'em know who got the upper hand. Nothing can do that better than a good sound beating." (29)
- She look me over from head to foot. Then she cackle. Sound like a death rattle. You sure is ugly, she say, like she ain't believed it. (34)
- When Pa tell you to do something, you do it, he say. When he say not to, you don't. You don't do what he say, he beat you. Sometime beat me anyhow, I say, whether I do what he say or not.  
That's right, say Harpo. But not Sofia. She do what she want, don't pay me no mind at all. I try to beat her, she black my eyes. (43)
- Mr. \_\_\_\_ marry me to take care of his children. I marry him cause my daddy made me. I don't love Mr. \_\_\_\_ and he don't love me. (43)
- There is a way that the men speak to women that reminds me too much of Pa. They listen just long enough to issue instructions. They don't even look at women

trying to make something out of himself. I don't mean just that he work and he clean up after himself and he appreciate some of the things God was playful enough to make. I mean when you talk to him now he really listen, and one time, out of nowhere in the conversation us was having, he said Celie, I'm satisfied this the first time I ever lived on Earth as a natural man. It feel like a new experience. (122)

- Celie, she say. All I ast is six months. Just six months to have my last fling. I got to have it Celie. I'm too weak a woman not to. But if you just give me six months, Celie, I will try to make our life together like it was. (118)

Mr. \_\_\_\_ start up from his seat, look at Shug, plopp back down again. He look over at me. I thought you was finally happy, he say. What wrong now?

You a lowdown dog is what's wrong, I say. It's time to leave you and enter into the Creation. And your dead body just the welcome mat I need. Say what? he ast. Shock. All round the table folkses mouths be dropping open.

You took my sister Nettie away from me, I say. And she was the only person love me in the world.

Mr. \_\_\_\_ start to sputter.

ButButButButBut. Sound like some kind of motor.

But Nettie and my children coming home soon, I say. And when she do, all us together gon whup your ass. Nettie and your children! say Mr.

\_\_\_\_. You talking crazy.

I got children, I say. Being brought up in Africa. Good schools, lots of fresh air and exercise. Turning out a heap better than the fools you didn't even try to raise.

Hold on, say Harpo.

Oh, hold on hell, I say. If you hadn't tried to rule over Sofia the white folks never would have caught her. Sofia so surprise to hear me speak up she ain't chewed for ten minutes. That's a lie, say Harpo.

A little truth in it, say Sofia.

Everybody look at her like they surprise she there. It like a voice speaking from the grave.

You was all rotten children, I say.

You made my life a hell on earth.

And your daddy here ain't dead horse's shit.

Mr. \_\_\_\_ reach over to slap me. I jab my case knife in his hand.

(99)

- I am so happy. I got love, I got work, I got money, friends and time. And you alive and be home soon. With our children. (105)

when women are speaking. They look at the ground and bend their heads toward the ground. The women also do not “look in a man’s face” as they say. To “look in a man’s face” is a brazen thing to do. They look instead at his feet or his knees. And what can I say to this? Again, it is our own behavior around Pa. (85)

- Tashi was heartbroken. All her young life she has tried to please her father, never quite realizing that, as a girl, she never could. (86)
- Their lives always center around work and their children and other women (since a woman cannot really have a man for a friend without the worst kind of ostracism and gossip). They indulge their husbands, if anything. You should just see how they make admiration over them. Praise their smallest accomplishments. Stuff them with palm wine and sweets. No wonder the men are often childish. And a grown child is a dangerous thing, especially since, among the Olinka, the husband has life and death power over the wife. (86,87)

- How you make your living up there? he say.  
Making pants, I say.  
He say, I notice everybody in the family just about wearing pants you made.  
But you mean you turned it into a business? That’s right, I say. But I really started it right here in your house to keep from killing you.  
He look down at the floor.  
(119)

## DRAFT Literary Essay Outline:

**BODY PARAGRAPH #1** (would examine the harsh treatment in the novel and prove the significant impact it had on Cellie.)

**Topic Sentence #1: (clearly state your argument for this paragraph):**

Celie's harsh treatment by the men surrounding her during her formative years had a devastating effect on her development as an independent woman.

**Point #1(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

She suffered devastating physical and emotional pain when she was repeatedly raped by her "step" father.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: "-----" (Author 49).** ← period after bracket

"He [Pa] never had a kine word to say to me. Just say You gonna do what your mammy wouldn't. First he put his thing up gainst my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grab hold my titties. Then he push his thing inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying You better shut up and git used to it. But I don't never get used to it."(Walker 4)

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

The sexual abuse she suffered from her step father made her feel and worthless and insignificant as an individual and that she had no choice but to submit to further abuse forced upon her by the men in her life.

**Point #2(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Celie had no control over the fate of her own children and was a victim of her stepfather's cruel decisions regarding her newborn infants and not revealing what happened to them. These actions reinforced her lack of self worth and ability to control her own life.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: "-----" (Author 49).**

"He took my other little baby, a boy this time. But I don't think he kilt it. I think he sold it to a man an his wife over Monticello." (Walker 10)

**Analysis(explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

In addition the his sexual abuse, her step father's lack of consideration for Celies emotional state and his treatment of his new born children only reinforces her sense of helplessness lack of control over her life.

**Point #3(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Her husband Albert physically abused her and treated her like a slave depriving her of any control over her personal life.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: "-----" (Author 49).**

"Mr. \_\_\_\_ come git me to take care his rotten children. He never ast me nothing bout myself. He clam on top of me and fuck and fuck, even when my head bandaged. Nobody ever love me, I say"(Walker, 65).

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

Because of Albert's lack of affection towards her she becomes convinced that she is doomed to a life of serving the demands and desires of the men in her life and that her own emotions and opinions hold no value.

**Concluding Sentence for paragraph:**

These examples illustrate how, from a very young age, Celie was conditioned to believe that she had no choices but to submit to the control of the men in her life.

**BODY PARAGRAPH #2** (would examine the progression of the protagonist's relationships and its impact)

**Topic Sentence #2: (clearly state your argument for this paragraph):**

The women in Celie's life had a strong impact on her realization that she didn't have to be a victim by providing positive role models and encouragement to gain independence.

**Point #1 (Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

In the beginning Nettie encouraged and advocated for Celie's access to an education. She later showed that she was unwilling to live under the same harmful patriarchal system.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: "-----" (Author 49).**

This is shown when Celie says "Helping me with spelling and everything else she think I need to know. No matter what happen, Nettie steady try to teach me what go on in the world." (Walker 19).

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

Nettie provided her with the encouragement and education that allowed her to function and communicate with others on a basic academic level. This allowed her to access more tools to survive independently.

**Point #2 (Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Sophia is a role model because she is unwilling to accept the societal norm of spousal abuse.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: "-----" (Author 49).**

"I loves Harpo, she say. God knows I do. But I'll kill him dead before I let him beat me." (Walker 31).

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

This quotation displays that Sophia is a role model for Celie by advising her not to accept the physical abuse from Albert and that she is unwilling to accept the abuse from Harpo herself. She is personally on a mission to achieve control over her independence and escape from the prevalent abuse currently condoned by society.

**Point #3(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Shug verifies that she is willing to take on a proactive role in guiding celie towards positive self esteem and personal independence.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: "-----" (Author 49).**

"That's it, say Shug. Pack your stuff . You coming to Tennessee with me." (Walker 91).

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

This quotation proves that Shug had a very significant influence on Celie and is willing to enable her to escape her intolerable life. When Celie accepts her offer without Alberts approval she proves that she has taken charge of gaining her desired independence. By doing this, Shug triggered the opportunity for Celie to vastly improve her quality of life.

**Concluding Sentence for paragraph:**

These examples illustrate how Celie has developed a much more assertive sense of her self worth and personal abilities and is now willing to take the next step towards freedom.

**BODY PARAGRAPH #3** (would examine the “so what?” of the protagonist’s transformation - how has his shift in focus (from inward to outward) helped him to achieve resistance? What does this resistance look like?)

**Topic Sentence #3: (clearly state your argument for this paragraph):**

Over the course of the novel, Celie has evolved from a persecuted adolescent to a confident independent matured woman. This transformation occurred as she was able to gradually escape the oppression by the dominant male figures in her life with the assistance and encouragement of strong female role models.

**Point #1(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Originally Celie had no concepting that it was in her power to modify her pathetic treatment.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: “-----” (Author 49).** ← period after bracket

“But I don’t know how to fight. All I know how to do is stay alive.”

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

This quote establishes that Celie believes she has no option but to submit to the continuous abuse that she is experiencing from her husband and his children.

**Point #2(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Celie has progressed to the awareness that spouse abuse is an unacceptable form of behaviour and surprised Sophia with her condemnation of Harpo’s behavior.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: “-----” (Author 49).**

“Oh, hold on hell, I say. If you hadn’t tried to rule over Sofia the white folks never would have caught her. Sofia so surprise to hear me speak up she ain’t chewed for ten minutes.” (Walker 99).

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

This quotation demonstrates how celie has progressed from a passive to an active role in her disapproval of male dominants and moving closer to her ultimate goal of personal independence.

**Point #3(Support - what is the specific point you intend to prove with your quotation?):**

Celie has overcome all her previous obstacles to obtain her ultimate goal of achieving acceptance and independence among her peers.

**Proof (Quotation from novel): Use MLA format to cite quotation: “-----” (Author 49).**

“I am so happy. I got love, I got work, I got money, friends and time. And you alive and be home soon. With our children.” (Walker 105).

**Analysis (explain how your quotation proves your point and your thesis):**

This quotation proves that Celie is now independent of the actions of others and now controls who is included in her life and she interacts with them.

**Concluding Sentence for paragraph:**

This evidence clearly delineates her progress in her personal goals in claiming her self fulfillment.

## INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

**Introduction sentence:** Capture the reader's interest and relate to the topic. Don't go back to the beginning of time. Begin generally **but avoid generalization! Do not mention the title of the novel.**

For centuries women have struggled to escape the dominance by their male counterparts and their lack of control over their personal lives.

**Linking sentence:** Link your topic to your novel by introducing it with 1-2 sentences (mention author and title) as it relates to the topic. By doing this, you justify your reasons for using this book/these books in your essay.

A depiction of this theme is outlined in the novel *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker.

**Preview argument #1: Harsh treatment that women endure**

**Preview argument #2: strong supportive female relationships**

**Preview argument #3: ending is a more positive sense of self worth and assertiveness.**

**Theme Statement:**

- Make sure your theme statement sums up your arguments in relation to your essay topic.
- Your theme statement should act as the "knot" for the introduction, tying it all together
- It should prepare the reader for the beginning of the body of the essay
- It should contain no new information and no surprises!

The author suggests that the harsh treatment that women endure in a misogynistic society may be alleviated through strong supportive female relationships, fostering a more positive sense of self-worth and assertiveness.

## Literary Essay Outline: CONCLUSION

**Restated thesis** which reflects the development of your essay (To state it in exactly the same way as you did in your introduction is pointless, as you and the reader now have a new perspective on the topic after you have dealt with it so thoroughly!):

Based on the narrative by Alice Walker, women can, with the support and encouragement of other females, rise above restrictive male domination to attain fulfillment in their personal life.

**Summarize your arguments and how they prove your thesis in 1 sentence** (without unnecessary and boring repetition). You may relate them directly to your novel:

In the Colour Purple, Celie achieves her desired goal through her sisters unwavering supportive, Sophia's example of defying the status-quo and eventually Shugs determination to rescue her from current

**Secondary Source Connection** (Extend the significance of your topic outward from the literature by connecting it to a secondary source [FROM OUR COURSE](#)):

**Close Strongly** (this is difficult, yet these last few statements are critical to the reader's impression of the arguments, and of you as a writer):

Aryn Frederick

Mrs. Norman

ENG3U1-18

20 May 2021

For centuries women have struggled to escape the dominance by their male counterparts and their own lack of control over their personal lives. A depiction of this theme is outlined in the novel *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker. The author illustrates that women can overcome a harsh misogynistic environment by developing a strong support group and female role models and gaining autonomy.

Celie's harsh treatment by the men surrounding her during her formative years had a devastating effect on her development as an independent woman. She suffered physical and emotional pain when she was repeatedly raped by her "step" father. "He [Pa] never had a kine word to say to me. Just say You gonna do what your mammy wouldn't. First he put his thing up gainst my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grab hold my titties. Then he push his thing inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying You better shut up and git used to it. But I don't never get used to it." (Walker 4) The sexual abuse she suffered from her step father made her feel and worthless and insignificant as an individual and that she had no choice but to submit to further abuse forced upon her by the men in her life. Celie had no control over the fate of her own children and was a victim of her stepfather's cruel decisions regarding her newborn infants and not revealing what happened to them. These actions reinforced her lack of self worth and ability to control her own life. "He took my other little baby, a boy this time. But I don't think he kilt it. I think he sold it to a man an his wife over Monticello." (Walker 10) In addition the his sexual abuse,

her step father's lack of consideration for Celie's emotional state and his treatment of his new born children only reinforces her sense of helplessness lack of control over her life.

Her husband Albert physically abused her and treated her like a slave depriving her of any control over her personal life. "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ come git me to take care his rotten children. He never ast me nothing bout myself. He clam on top of me and fuck and fuck, even when my head bandaged. Nobody ever love me, I say"(Walker, 65). Because of Albert's lack of affection towards her she becomes convinced that she is doomed to a life of serving the demands and desires of the men in her life and that her own emotions and opinions hold no value. The women in Celie's life had a strong impact on her realization that she didn't have to be a victim by providing positive role models and encouragement to gain independence. In the beginning Nettie encouraged and advocated for Celie's access to an education. She later showed that she was unwilling to live under the same harmful patriarchal system. This is shown when Celie says "Helping me with spelling and everything else she think I need to know. No matter what happen, Nettie steady try to teach me what go on in the world." (Walker 19). Nettie provided her with the encouragement and education that allowed her to function and communicate with others on a basic academic level. This allowed her to access more tools to survive independently. Sophia is a role model because she is unwilling to accept the societal norm of spousal abuse. "I loves Harpo, she say. God knows I do. But I'll kill him dead before I let him beat me." (Walker 31). This quotation displays that Sophia is a role model for Celie by advising her not to accept the physical abuse from Albert and that she is unwilling to accept the abuse from Harpo herself. She is personally on a mission to achieve control over her independence and escape from the prevalent abuse currently condoned by society. Shug verifies that she is willing to take on a proactive role in guiding Celie towards positive self esteem and personal independence. "That's it, say Shug. Pack your stuff . You coming to Tennessee with me." (Walker 91). This quotation proves that Shug had a very significant influence on Celie and is willing to enable her to escape her intolerable life. When Celie accepts her offer without Albert's approval she proves that she has taken charge of gaining her desired independence. By doing this, Shug triggered the opportunity for Celie to vastly improve her quality of life. These examples illustrate how Celie has developed a much more assertive sense of her self worth and personal abilities and is now willing to take the next step towards freedom.

Over the course of the novel, Celie has evolved from a persecuted adolescent to a confident independent matured woman. This transformation occurred as she was able to gradually escape the oppression by the dominant male figures in her life with the assistance and encouragement of strong female role models. Originally Celie had no concepting that it was in her power to modify her pathetic treatment. “But I don’t know how to fight. All I know how to do is stay alive.” This quote establishes that Celie believes she has no option but to submit to the continuous abuse that she is experiencing from her husband and his children. Celie has progressed to the awareness that spouse abuse is an unacceptable form of behaviour and surprised Sophia with her condemnation of Harpo’s behavior. “Oh, hold on hell, I say. If you hadn’t tried to rule over Sofia the white folks never would have caught her. Sofia so surprise to hear me speak up she ain’t chewed for ten minutes.” (Walker 99). This quotation demonstrates how Celie has progressed from a passive to an active role in her disapproval of male dominants and moving closer to her ultimate goal of personal independence. Celie has overcome all her previous obstacles to obtain her ultimate goal of achieving acceptance and independence among her peers. “I am so happy. I got love, I got work, I got money, friends and time. And you alive and be home soon. With our children.” (Walker 105). This quotation proves that Celie is now independent of the actions of others and now controls who is included in her life and she interacts with them. This evidence clearly delineates her progress in her personal goals in claiming her self fulfillment.

