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APPENDIXES

1. Synopsis of Novel *The Color Purple*

"*The Color Purple*" by Alice Walker is a novel set in Georgia, United States, between 1909 and 1947. The story spans 40 years and follows the life and experiences of Celie, a black girl who grows up isolated in Georgia. Celie is a fourteen years old girl who is poor and uneducated, living with her stepfather, Alphonso (Pa), her mother, and her younger sister, Nettie.

Celie experiences sexual and physical harassment by her father and has been impregnated twice. After each birth, Alphonso takes away her children and tells Celie that she has killed them, but on another occasion, Celie finds her children still alive. Celie writes letters to God and tells him about her father's cruelty. This begins when Alphonso warns her not to tell anyone except God about the sexual abuse he has committed against her. Celie is sexually, physically, and verbally abused by her father, and later by her husband.

One day, a man who knows as Mr.____, a widower with two children, comes to propose to Nettie. However, Alphonso rejects him and suggests that Celie marry him instead. After the marriage, Celie continues to experience sexual, physical, and verbal abuse by her husband. After that, Nettie runs away from Alphonso and lives with Celie. However, because Albert still loves Nettie, Nettie has to leave Celie's house. Celie advises Nettie to seek help from a well-dressed black woman she saw at a store earlier. Nettie is taken by the woman, who is later

to be the one who adopted Celie's children. Celie does not hear from Nettie for many years.



Shug Avery, a glamorous and independent singer who sometimes also becomes Albert's mistress, falls ill and is brought to Celie's house to recover. Eventually, Shug becomes friendly with Celie and they become close friends, with Celie developing a sexual attraction to Shug. After recovering, Shug sings at a juke joint opened by Harpo after Sofia left him. Shug finds out that Pa has been beating Celie when she goes, so she decides to stay longer. A few weeks later, Shug leaves and returns with her new husband, Grady. However, she starts an intimate sexual relationship with Celie.

Celie begins to build relationships with other black women, particularly those involved in forced oppression. One such woman is Sofia, who marries Albert's son, Harpo. Harpo cannot control Sofia when she is pregnant and asks Celie for advice, which Celie advises him to beat her. However, when Harpo tries to control her, Sofia refuses to submit to Harpo's physical violence and imitates her father's behavior. Celie also advises Harpo to be gentler towards Sofia, but later Harpo becomes harsh again. When Celie is found to have advised Harpo to use violence, Sofia confronts Celie, who is guilty. Celie admits to being jealous of Sofia's bravery in refusing to back down. Eventually, the two women become friends, and Sofia advises Celie to defend herself.

Sometime later, Celie learns from Shug that Albert has been hiding letters from Nettie, which Celie reads and discovers that Nettie is friends with Reverend Samuel and his wife, Corrine. Celie also learns that the adopted children of the actually her own children.



Nettie becomes friends with Samuel and Corrine and joins them in their missionary work in Liberia, where Corrine later dies. The couple later realizes the extraordinary resemblance between Nettie and Celie's adopted children. The letters also reveal that Alphonso is actually Celie's stepfather who took advantage of her mother after she fell ill. Celie's biological father, the successful store owner, was sentenced to death without trial. Alphonso wanted to inherit the house and property. Corrine later falls ill and dies, and Samuel marries Nettie.

Questioning her faith, Celie begins to write letters to Nettie. However, Shug later encourages Celie to change her views about God. Celie decides to leave Albert and go to Memphis with Shug. When they arrive, Celie becomes Shug's property and creates a successful business selling women's pants. Her happiness, however, is somewhat influenced by Shug's infidelity, although Celie continues to love her. After Alphonso's death, Celie inherits her childhood home, where she eventually settles. During this time, she befriends Albert, who apologizes for his previous behavior towards Celie. After being apart for about 30 years, Celie is reunited with Nettie, who has married Samuel. Celie also meets her long-lost children.



2. Biography of Alice Walker



Source: news.amomama.com

Alice Walker was born at 1944, one of the United States' preeminent writers, is an award-winning author of novels, stories, essays, and poetry. Walker was the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, which she won in 1983 for her novel *The Color Purple*, also a National Book Award winner. Walker has also contributed to American culture as an activist, teacher, and public intellectual. In both her writing and her public life, Walker has worked to address problems of injustice, inequality, and poverty.

Walker was born at home in Putnam County, Georgia, on February 9, 1944, the eighth child of Willie Lee and Minnie Tallulah Grant Walker. Willie Lee and Minnie Lou labored as tenant farmers, and Minnie Lou supplemented the family income as a house cleaner. Though poor, Walker's parents raised her to value her education, encouraging her to focus on her studies. When she was a young girl, Alice's brother accidentally shot her in the eye with a BB, leaving a scar and causing her to withdraw into the world of art and books. Walker's



dedication to learning led her to graduate from her high school as valedictorian. She was also homecoming queen.

Walker began attending Spelman College in Atlanta in 1961. There she formed bonds with professors such as Staughton Lynd and Howard Zinn, teacher that would inspire her to pursue her talent for writing and her commitment to social justice. In 1964 she transferred to Sarah Lawrence College, where she completed a collection of poems in her senior year. This collection would later become her first published book, *Once* (1965). After college Walker became deeply engaged with the civil rights movement, often joining marches and voter registration drives in the South. In 1965 she met Melvyn Rosenman Leventhal, a civil rights lawyer, whom she would marry in 1967 in New York. The two were happy, before the strain of being an interracial couple in Mississippi caused them to separate in 1976. They had one child, Rebecca Grant Walker Leventhal.

In the late sixties through the seventies, Walker produces several books, including her first novel, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* (1970), and her first story collection, *In Love & Trouble* (1973). During this time she also pursued a number of other ambitions, such as working as an editor for *Ms. Magazine*, assisting antipoverty campaigns, and helping to bring canonical novelist Zora Neale Hurston back into the public eye.

With the 1982 release of her third novel, *The Color Purple*, Walker earned a reputation as one of America's premier authors. The book would go on to sell



lion copies and be adapted into an Academy Award nominated film by even Spielberg. After the publication of *The Color Purple*, Walker had a

tremendously prolific decade. She produced a number of acclaimed novels, including *You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down* (1982), *The Temple of My Familiar* (1989), and *Possessing the Secret of Joy* (1992), as well as the poetry collections *Horses Make a Landscape Look More Beautiful* (1985) and *Her Blue Body Everything We Know* (1991). During this time Walker also began to distinguish herself as an essayist and nonfiction writer with collections on race, feminism, and culture, including *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens* (1983) and *Living by the Word* (1988). Another collection of poetry, *Hard Times Require Furious Dancing*, was released in 2010, followed by her memoir, *The Chicken Chronicles*, in the spring of 2011.

