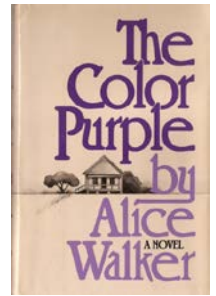


A LESSON in AGENCY using SENTENCES from THE COLOR PURPLE by Alice Walker

Identify the agent (“doer”) and the patient (“receiver”) in these sentences.



Sentences from the first half of the book:

1. Maybe you can give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me.
2. 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.
3. My mama dead. She die screaming and cussing. She scream at me. She cuss at me.
4. He beat me today cause he say I winked at a boy in church.
5. It took him the whole spring, from March to June, to make up his mind to take me.
6. The first time I got big Pa took me out of school.
7. I know what he doing to me he done to Shug Avery.

Sentences from the second half of the book:

8. *[Albert says to Celie]: When I was growing up, he said, I use to try to sew along with mama cause that's what she was always doing. But everybody laughed at me. But you know, I liked it. Well, nobody gon laugh at you now, I said. Here, help me stitch in these pockets. But I don't know how, he say.*
[Celie replies]: I'll show you, I said. And I did.
9. Meanwhile, I hired Sofia to clerk in our store. Kept the white man Alphonso got to run it, but put Sofia in there to wait on colored cause they never had nobody in a store to wait on 'em before and nobody in a store to treat 'em nice.
10. And I see they think me and Nettie and Shug and Albert and Samuel and Harpo and Sofia and Jack and Odessa real old and don't know much what going on. But I don't think us feel old at all. And us so happy. Matter of fact, I think this the youngest us ever felt.

What do you notice about narrator Celie's agency in the sentences from the beginning of the book compared to the sentences from the end of the book?

Even without knowing the plot of the book, your analysis of these sentences can tell you a great deal about changes in this character.

1. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Location 5). Kindle Edition.
2. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Locations 9-10). Kindle Edition.
3. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Location 12). Kindle Edition.
4. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Locations 25-26). Kindle Edition.
5. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Locations 53-54). Kindle Edition.
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7. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Location 82). Kindle Edition.
8. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Locations 2207-2209). Kindle Edition.
9. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Locations 2285-2287). Kindle Edition.
10. Alice Walker (2011-02-14T01:35:50.502000+00:00). The Color Purple (Kindle Locations 2359-2361). Kindle Edition.