

QUESTIONS: THE FLOWERS by Alice Walker

1. What time of the year is it when the story begins?
2. Who is Myop? Describe her. How old is she?
3. How was Myop thinking and feeling in the beginning of the story? How do you know?
 - a. line 1 she skipped lightly from hen house to pigpen to smokehouse
 - b. lines 8-9 she was 10 and nothing existed for her but her song
4. After she left the farm, where did she go?
5. What kind of farm does she live on? Is she rich or poor? How does her poor compare to other kinds of poor (e.g. someone who is poor and lives in the city)?
6. What was she watching out for as she walked? (snakes) Why? How are a snake and a dead body alike?
7. Where did things start to change in the story? How does Alice Walker's language change the mood of the story? (paragraph 5, lines 2-4)
8. When did you realize what Myop stepped on? How long had the man been there?
9. How did Myop react when she found the man? Why do you think she reacted that way? Do you think she understood what had happened to him? How long ago did the man get there (contrast the body with "a golden surprise")?
10. Why do you think the title of the story is *The Flowers*? Why do you think Myop "laid down her flowers"?
11. What do you think/feel about this story? Why do you think Alice Walker wrote this story?
12. What does the last sentence of the story mean, "and the summer was over"? (loss of innocence) What causes young people to lose innocence? What caused you to?
13. What childhood experiences have you had that changed you?
14. What do you think the name "Myop" means? (myopia – near-sightedness)