



# BOOK RESUME: THE COLOR PURPLE

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

A powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature, *The Color Purple* depicts the lives of African American women in early-twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance, and silence. Through a series of letters spanning nearly thirty years, first from Celie to God, then from the sisters to each other, the novel draws readers into a rich and memorable portrayal of Black women—their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery.

Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, *The Color Purple* breaks the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, and carries readers on an epic and spirit-affirming journey toward transformation, redemption, and love.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Reading *The Color Purple* was the first time I had seen Southern, Black women’s literature as world literature. In writing us into the world—bravely, unapologetically, and honestly—Alice Walker has given us a gift we will never be able to repay.” —Tayari Jones

“*The Color Purple* was what church should have been, what honest familial reckoning could have been, and it is still the only art object in the world by which all three generations of Black artists in my family judge American art.” —Kiese Laymon

“Remarkable expressiveness, color, and poignancy . . . not only a memorable and infinitely touching character but a whole submerged world is vividly called into being.” —*The New York Review of Books*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- Winner of the 1983 National Book Award for Fiction

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Educator Guide](#)

[Why parents still try to ban \*The Color Purple\* in schools](#)

[Alice Walker: Writing What’s Right](#)

[On Alice Walker’s \*The Color Purple\*](#)

[Revisiting \*The Color Purple\* Wars](#)

**Title:** The Color Purple  
**Author:** Alice Walker  
**Imprint:** Penguin Publishing Group  
**Publisher:** Penguin Books  
**On sale date:** 12/10/2019  
**ISBN:** 9780143135692  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Age Range\*:** 14 and up  
**Grade Range:** Classic

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

## **RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES**

[Brunswick Co School Board Votes to Keep \*The Color Purple\* on High School Reading List \(2013\)](#)

[Cody School District Says No to Banning \*The Color Purple\* \(2022\)](#)

[West Virginia School Board Bans \*The Color Purple\* \(1997\)](#)

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