

# Marigolds Think Questions Answers

Marigolds by Eugenia Collier

## Reading comprehension questions

1. Who is the author of "Marigolds"?
2. In what type of community does the story take place?
3. What is the setting of the story?
4. Who is the protagonist in "Marigolds"?
5. What is Lizabeth's last name?
6. Who is Lizabeth's brother?
7. What are the marigolds a symbol of in the story?
8. What is the significance of the marigolds to the characters in the story?
9. What does Lizabeth do to Miss Lottie's marigolds?
10. What motivates Lizabeth to destroy the marigolds?
11. How does Miss Lottie react to Lizabeth's actions?
12. What is the tone of the story?
13. What is the central conflict in "Marigolds"?
14. How does Lizabeth feel after destroying the marigolds?
15. What is the theme of the story?
16. How does the Great Depression affect the characters in the story?
17. How does Lizabeth feel about her family's living situation?
18. What do the marigolds represent to Lizabeth?
19. What does Lizabeth see her father do, which contributes to her emotional turmoil?
20. How does Lizabeth's mother try to maintain dignity in their poverty?
21. Who is Joey and what is his role in the story?
22. How does the town view Miss Lottie's marigolds?
23. How does the town view Miss Lottie herself?
24. Why does Lizabeth feel a mix of sympathy and anger toward Miss Lottie?
25. What does Lizabeth's father symbolize in the story?
26. How does Lizabeth's attitude towards Miss Lottie change?

**Marigolds Think Questions Answers** are an essential component of understanding and analyzing the themes, characters, and messages in the short story "Marigolds" by Eugenia W. Collier. The narrative, set during the Great Depression, revolves around a young girl named Lizabeth as she navigates the complexities of growing up in a harsh environment. This article will explore thought-provoking questions and their corresponding answers, delving into the story's symbolism, character development, and themes of innocence and maturity.

## Understanding the Story

"Marigolds" tells the story of Lizabeth, a young girl on the cusp of adolescence, who grapples with her identity and the harsh realities of her impoverished environment. The marigolds, planted by Miss Lottie, serve as a powerful symbol throughout the narrative, representing beauty, hope, and resilience amidst despair.

## Key Themes

### 1. Innocence vs. Maturity

- The transition from childhood to adulthood is a central theme. Lizabeth's internal conflict illustrates the struggle between innocence and the harsh truths of life.

### 2. Empathy and Understanding

- The story emphasizes the importance of empathy. Lizabeth's journey teaches her to understand others' pain and perspectives.

### 3. Socioeconomic Struggles

- The backdrop of the Great Depression highlights the challenges faced by families, impacting their emotional and psychological well-being.

## Think Questions and Answers

To enhance comprehension and encourage deeper reflection, here are some thought-provoking questions about "Marigolds," along with detailed answers.

### 1. What role do the marigolds play in the story?

The marigolds symbolize beauty and hope in a world filled with despair. Miss Lottie, the caretaker of the marigolds, represents resilience and the desire for beauty in a harsh environment. Lizabeth's destruction of the marigolds marks a pivotal moment in her journey from childhood to adulthood, signifying her loss of innocence and her struggle to understand the complexities of life.

### 2. How does Lizabeth's character evolve throughout the story?

Lizabeth undergoes significant character development. Initially, she is portrayed as a carefree child, unaware of the struggles around her. However, as she grapples with her emotions and the realities of her family's situation, she becomes more introspective. Her actions towards Miss Lottie's marigolds reflect her internal turmoil and her transition into a more mature understanding of life's complexities.

### 3. What is the significance of Lizabeth's relationship with her father?

Lizabeth's relationship with her father is crucial to her emotional development. Initially, she idolizes him, but as the story progresses, she realizes that he is also a victim of their circumstances, struggling with his own emotions and frustrations. This revelation adds depth to Lizabeth's understanding of adult struggles and complicates her perception of authority and responsibility.

### 4. Discuss the impact of the setting on the story's mood and characters.

The setting, a poor rural community during the Great Depression, greatly influences the mood of the story. The bleakness of the environment reflects the struggles of its inhabitants, shaping the characters' experiences and outlooks on life. The contrast between the desolate landscape and the vibrant marigolds accentuates the theme of finding beauty in adversity.

## **5. Why does Lizabeth destroy the marigolds, and what does this act symbolize?**

Lizabeth destroys the marigolds in a moment of emotional upheaval, driven by confusion and frustration. This act symbolizes her loss of innocence and the tumultuous transition from childhood to adulthood. It marks a critical turning point, as she confronts her emotions and the harsh realities of life. The destruction of the marigolds serves as a metaphor for the destruction of her childhood innocence.

## **6. How does the author use symbolism to enhance the story's themes?**

Eugenia W. Collier employs various symbols to reinforce the story's themes. The marigolds themselves symbolize hope and beauty in bleakness. They serve as a contrast to the poverty experienced by the characters. Other symbols, such as the dusty landscape and Lizabeth's tears, further highlight the struggles of growing up and the loss of innocence.

## **7. What does the ending of the story suggest about Lizabeth's future?**

The ending of the story suggests a sense of hope and maturity for Lizabeth. After her moment of realization and regret, she begins to understand the complexities of life and human emotions. This newfound understanding indicates that she is on the path to becoming a more empathetic and compassionate individual, capable of navigating the challenges ahead.

## **8. How does "Marigolds" reflect the societal issues of its time?**

"Marigolds" reflects the societal issues of the Great Depression, focusing on poverty, unemployment, and the struggle for dignity. The story encapsulates the emotional toll these issues take on families and individuals. Through Lizabeth's experiences, the narrative highlights the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of hope, even in dire circumstances.

## **9. In what ways does the story challenge traditional gender roles?**

The story challenges traditional gender roles by portraying Lizabeth as a complex character who defies the typical expectations of her gender. Her emotional struggles and actions demonstrate that women can experience a wide range of emotions and navigate difficult situations, highlighting the importance of individual growth and understanding beyond societal norms.

## **10. What lessons can readers learn from Lizabeth's journey?**

Readers can learn several valuable lessons from Lizabeth's journey, including:

- The importance of empathy and understanding others' experiences.
- The inevitability of change and the transition from childhood to adulthood.
- The significance of finding beauty and hope in difficult circumstances.
- The impact of one's actions on others and the need for personal growth.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, Marigolds Think Questions Answers provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing and understanding the profound themes and character developments present in "Marigolds" by Eugenia W. Collier. Through Lizabeth's journey, readers are invited to explore the complexities of growing up, the struggle for identity, and the importance of empathy and hope. The story serves as a poignant reminder of the beauty that can emerge from even the most challenging circumstances, encouraging readers to reflect on their own experiences and the lessons that can be drawn from them.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the main themes explored in 'Marigolds'?**

The main themes in 'Marigolds' include the loss of innocence, the struggle between poverty and dignity, and the importance of empathy and understanding in personal growth.

### **How does the setting of 'Marigolds' contribute to the story's message?**

The setting, a dusty, impoverished town during the Great Depression, highlights the struggles of the characters and emphasizes the contrast between the harshness of their environment and the beauty of the marigolds, symbolizing hope and resilience.

### **What role does the character of Miss Lottie play in 'Marigolds'?**

Miss Lottie serves as a pivotal character who embodies both the hardship of life and the beauty of resilience. Her marigolds represent hope and the possibility of beauty in a difficult world, impacting the protagonist's understanding of compassion.

### **How does the protagonist's perspective change throughout 'Marigolds'?**

The protagonist, Lizbeth, evolves from a naive child to a more mature individual who understands the complexities of life, particularly the balance between joy and sorrow, ultimately leading her to empathize with Miss Lottie's struggles.

## What does the act of destroying the marigolds symbolize in the story?

The act of destroying the marigolds symbolizes the loss of innocence and the harsh realities of growing up. It represents the conflict between childhood innocence and the painful truths of adulthood that Lizbeth must confront.

## How does the author use imagery in 'Marigolds' to enhance the narrative?

The author uses vivid imagery, particularly in describing the marigolds, to evoke emotions and create a stark contrast between the beauty of the flowers and the bleakness of the surrounding environment, enhancing the themes of hope and despair.

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