“In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens” Three Threes in a Row

Complete the answers for the questions in the row you’ve been assigned. Then, mix and mingle to get the rest!

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| 1. How is Walker's mother portrayed in the opening paragraphs of the text? What does Walker want the reader to learn about her mother through the opening memories and anecdotes? (RI 7.1) | 2. Why does Walker pose the question, “But when, you will ask, did my overworked mother have time to know or care about feeding the creative?” (RI7.5)  | 3. Why is Walker so impressed with the quilt she saw in the Smithsonian? Why does Walker include this anecdote in the essay? (RI7.1, 7.5) |
| 4. What does Walker mean when she says, “And so our mothers and grandmothers have, more often than anonymously, handed on the creative spark, the seed of the flower they themselves never hoped to see (p. 323)?” (RI 7.2, 7.4) | 5. How does Walker's portrayal of her mother change when she discusses her working in the garden? (RI 7.1, 7.5)  | 6. How do passersby react to Walker's mother's garden? Why do they react in this way? (RI7.1) |
| 7. Reread the poem included in the essay on page 325. Throughout the poem, Walker uses a metaphor as she honors and describe her mother. Explain the meaning of the metaphor being used and why Walker might have made this comparison. (RI7.4) | 8. Walker states near the end of the essay, "Guided by my heritage of a love of beauty and a respect for strength- in search of my mother's garden, I found my own." What "garden" do you think Walker has found? How has Walker's "garden" been influenced by her mother? (RI7.1, 7.2)  | 9. Why does Walker call this essay “In Search of *Our* Mothers’ Gardens” instead of “In Search of *My* Mother’s Garden?" (RI7.2)  |