

Vocabulary Section

Word		answers	Definition
Kentucky Wonders	A		« Are you going to put the beans in a can? »
« Give me that again. Flat out to fit my head. »	B		Acting arrogant and impertinent
« You gone can them? »	C		Tuberculosis: an infectious disease
Peck.... two bushels	D		A young cow (used here as an insult)
Stepping tall	E		The villagers enjoyed playing a gambling game based on numbers
TB	F		A climbing variety of green beans
Heifer	G		A faucet (US) or a tap (GB)
spigot	H		« Say that again because I don't understand. »
522	I		Measurements: a peck = ¼ of a bushel or 8 quarts
Her nature was coming down	J		Her menstrual period was starting

1) « The second strange thing was Hannah's coming into her room with an empty bowl and a peck of Kentucky Wonders ». Why does this opening keep our interest?

- we want to find out why it was strange
- we do not know what the first strange thing was
- it introduces the ideas of omens

2) Choose (from the list below) the five strange omens:

- a choking dry wind OR cold weather in summer
- Eva's missing, comb OR Eva going_ downstairs
- Hannah dreaming of a fiery red dress OR Hannah dreaming of a deathly black dress
- Sula's sullen/moody behaviour OR Sula's friendly behaviour
- Sula's hair changing colour OR her changing birthmark

These omens tell us that the the people of Bottom believe in signs and they can therefore be described as

Later on, Eva believes that all of these signs were warnings that something terrible was going to happen which was

She also believes that these signs of disorder are _____
fault.

3) What question does Hannah ask her mother?

4) Eva says that she did not have time to play with her children when they were younger. She says that she was too busy looking after them. What does she say that she had to protect them from?

- hunger - diseases like TB - being kidnapped - racism - worms - terrible winters - bullying

5) Hannah then asks Eva why she killed Plum. Read pages 70-722

a) There is a flashback in this passage. Page 70. What does it refer to?

- when she killed Plum - when he was constipated - when she lost her leg - a freezing cold winter when BoyBoy had deserted her - when she suddenly found lots of money - when she was very poor

b) What reason does she give for having killed her son?

- he was immature - he was a drug addict - he was depressed - he did not want to get a job - she was tired of supporting him financially - she knew that the drugs would destroy him - she wanted him to die like a man and not in a pathetic way

6) Fill in the gaps of the summary below:

Later that day, Hannah takes a short _____ and dreams of a red bridal gown. The next day, she tells Eva about her dream. Eva briefly _____ the dream's significance, but she is preoccupied thinking about Sula's _____ behaviour of late. Moving her wagon to the window, Eva sees Hannah bending to light a fire in the _____ moments later; Hannah is _____ in flames. With difficulty, Eva _____ herself out of her wagon and through the second-floor bedroom window, hoping to _____ ... the blaze that consumes her daughter. A neighbour who sees Hannah _____ wildly in flames calls an ambulance- When the ambulance arrives, Hannah and Eva are lifted inside it. Hannah dies on the way to the hospital.

Recuperating in the hospital from the _____ she sustained from jumping out of her window, Eva remembers seeing Sula merely standing on the boardinghouse's back porch,

calmly-watching her mother

in the conflaguration of flames.

perish- injuries - engulfed - hurls - smother - flailing- nap - ponders - odd - yard

7) « Hannah died on the way to hospital_ Or so **they said.** »).Page 77

Morrison introduces an element of doubt. What else could have happened?

Suggest alternatives (Hint: who else was in the ambulance? Why might she have done something to Hannah?)

Eva might have

She could have

since

8) Find elements of RACISM at the end of this chapter when Eva is at the hospital. 2 quotes:

Segregation in the hospital.-

The way Eva is treated:

9) After Hannah's death the community never completely trusts or accepts Sula the way it accepted her mother. Find a quote in this chapter to show how the community felt about Hannah's death:

(page 77)

THEME OF LOVE

For Eva love is equated with responsibility.

10) In what ways does Eva show her love for her children?

she fed and looked after her children when times were difficult

she played with her children and gave them presents

she was affectionate to them

she killed Plum when he became a drug addict

she tries to save Hannah from burning

GOOD AND EVIL

11) This is also important in the scene.

Plum is EVIL through his drug use and so is punished with

Hannah is EVIL when she says that she does not like her daughter and she is punished with

Eva remembers when she was GOOD and helped him with his constipation. She is rewarded with

_____ in the summer heat.

12)SEEING and WATCHING

At the end of the chapter we are told that: ((When Eva, who was never one to hide the faults of her children, mentioned what she thought she'd seen to a few friends, they said it was natural. Sula was probably struck dumb, as anybody would be who **saw** her own mamma burn up. Eva said yes, but inside she disagreed and remained convinced that Sula had **watched** Hannah burn not because she was paralysed, but because she was interested. » Page 78

- a) What is the difference between seeing and watching?
- b) What mystery does it create concerning the character of Sula?