

## Using Words to Establish Mood

For each passage below, change the boldface words to create the indicated moods and situations.

1. Framton **grabbed wildly** at his stick and hat and made a **head-long retreat**.

a. calmness:

b. regret (at leaving):

2. She **removed** her **dim gaze** and let it **travel casually** about the railroad car; **before long** it returned, **pointedly**, to the newspaper.

a. fear:

b. joy:

3. An **eager** star **twinkled** in the **velvet sky** as a **spare, hard-faced man slouched down** main street.

a. a winter night:

b. confusion:



## Eugenia Collier's Clarity Through Comparison

Read each of the passages from Eugenia Collier's "Marigolds." Explain your understanding of the passage, and point out specific similes, metaphors, and allusions.

1. "I feel again the chaotic emotions of adolescence, illusive as smoke, yet as real as the potted geranium before me now."
2. "Joy and rage and wild animal gladness and shame become tangled together in the multicolored skein of a 14-going-on-15 . . ."
3. ". . . if one were to have the grit rise before dawn each day and labor in the white man's vineyard . . . offering one's sweat in return for some meager share of bread."
4. "Poverty was the cage in which we all were trapped, and our hatred of it was still the vague, undirected restlessness of the zoo-bred flamingo who knows that nature has created him to fly free."
5. ". . . those days are ill-defined in my memory, running together and combining like a fresh water-color painting left out in the rain."

## Using Comparisons and Allusions

For each object or event given, write a sentence in which you use a simile, metaphor, or allusion to make the situation clear to your reader.

1. A rainy summer day
2. An angry adult
3. A raw egg you have dropped
4. Being blamed when you were not guilty
5. Being given tickets to a game or show you really want to see
6. A kite in the sky
7. Walking alone in a snowfall
8. Jumping into the pool or ocean on a hot summer day
9. Realizing you have lost something very valuable to yourself
10. Passing a test which you expected to fail

## Recognizing Symbols in "Marigolds"

Think about each of the symbols listed below, and explain what meanings these people and objects might have.

1. The shanty-town in which the narrator was raised
2. Joey
3. John Burke
4. Miss Lottie
5. The marigolds
6. Elizabeth

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **“And I too have planted marigolds.”**

Marigolds are the main symbol in Eugenia Collier’s story, and she emphasizes their symbolic value in the closing line.

Have you ever “planted marigolds” when life seemed especially disappointing? Have you seen someone else create beauty to alter a grim landscape? Have you observed someone driven by anger or sadness to destroy beauty?

Write your own “Marigolds” below.