

Why you should read The Color Purple:

1. Celie is one of the most endearing and unforgettable characters ever created.
2. It is written as a series of letters so it is a quick read that is difficult to put down once begun.
3. A sense of gratitude and compassion pervades the novel.
4. The characters are fully developed and dynamic – most are deeply flawed, yet deeply forgivable.

Why you may struggle with The Color Purple:

1. The subject matter of the first two letters is brutal and difficult to read through the eyes of fourteen year old Celie.
2. The subject matter forces readers to examine any preconceived notions regarding spirituality, sexuality and relationships.
3. Initially, Celie's uneducated, fourteen year old diction takes a little getting used to.