

**Fleischman, Paul. Seedfolks. New York: Harper Collins. 1999. Print**

**Answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Do not worry if you are unsure; that's what our community discussions are for. We will all gain more by reading and discussing together!**

**Use textual evidence from the book to support your answers. This will include the page number, so you can go back to the evidence in discussions and writings. Questions that have an asterisk preceding them are those that help illuminate a theme in the book.**

- 1. Ana saw the changes in the neighborhood. What were the changes she saw and what was her perception of them?**
- \*2. Describe Ana's misperceptions of Kim.**
- 3. What brought Ana into Kim's life? What makes it so difficult in life to enter the life of others we do not know?**
- 4. Wendell's experience told him the beans should have died in the cold. Explain what kept them alive.**
- \*5. "We never spoke one word" (Fleischman 15). Why didn't Wendell and Kim speak?**
- 6. "The older you are the younger you get when you move to the United States" (Fleischman 17). Explain what Gonzalo meant by this quote. How is Gonzalo's perspective different from Tio Juan as he explains it on page 21?**
- \*7. Detail the transformation Gonzalo describes.**
- 8. Gonzalo describes Tio Juan as growing food rather than planting seeds, as the others have done. Why is his perception different from the others in the story?**

- \*9. Read page 28 carefully. Why did Leona have to make herself “real” to the workers at the Public Health Department? How would you characterize Leona?**
- \*10. Sam is extremely important to the themes of the story. He is the closest thing to an omniscient narrator. Write a paragraph describing Sam. What do you think of him? Would you like him if you met him? Justify.**
- 11. For Virgil and his father what does the garden represent? Does this demonstrate a different perspective from those of other characters?**
- \*12. Explain what the garden did for Sae Young.**
- 13. Explain the following references found on page 55: “Field Slave,” “Sharecropper,” and “Massa’s crops.”**
- 14. What drove Curtis to continue to farm despite these taunts from his peers?**
- \*15. Explain the relationship between Curtis and Royce.**
- 16. The chapter introducing Nora is wonderfully descriptive and filled with figurative language. Choose two of the passages in this chapter that you particularly like. Discuss their meaning and why you like the author’s word choices and style.**
- \*17. Nora references pilgrims and pioneers several times while describing those in the garden. What is the connection?**

- 18. Maricela explicitly defines one aspect of theme as she is introduced on page 66. Explain and connect elsewhere in the story.**
- 19. Amir juxtaposes his perceptions of people and of America with the lessons he learns. In particular he references Poles. What does he mean and what does he feel about the Polish woman he meets in the garden?**
- \*20. "He was not a black teenage boy. He was Royce" (Fleischman 79). Explain how this reflects Amir's philosophy and how the garden impacts this perception.**
- \*21. Explain the circumstances surrounding the statement "Back then I didn't know it was you..."(Fleischman 81).**
- 22. Use the following quote to explain why the story is named Seedfolks: "My father called them our seedfolks, because they were the first of our family there" (Fleischman 83). Can you see a connection between seedfolks and the use of pioneer and pilgrim in the story?**