

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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"The Flowers" by Alice Walker



In "The Flowers" by Alice Walker, a carefree, lighthearted girl by the name of Myop is awestricken by the a grave sight that forever changes her outlook on life. As Myop is exploring the woods behind the house during one of her blithe jaunts, she comes across unfamiliar territory. She wishes to return to a merry morning under the bright sun, so she changes paths out of fear of the unaccustomed disruptance of peace. Along the way, Myop comes face to face with a horrific skeleton of a man who onced used to a ~~Black~~ drudge. She stops in her tracks to pay respect to the dead man by placing her flowers beside him, signifying the abandonment of her innocence. This terminates her walk, for she acknowledges unpleasant reality. "And the summer was over."

For the first time, Myop personally sees a disturbing sight that brings her to her senses. "He had been a tall man. From feet to neck covered a long space... He'd had... long fingers, and very big bones." The man was most likely a slave who performed menial tasks and was hanged at the spot. He symbolizes the cruel racism, inequality, and discrimination in the world. Myop is introduced to the distasteful repugnance of reality through her latest experience in the woods. She no longer finds everything happy-go-lucky as things seemed to her originally.

As an indication of giving away her pure innocence, Myop lays down her flowers. The flowers in the beginning of the story signifies her perfect life of cheerfulness. When she ends her summer walk with the placement of flowers by the man, she changes her perspective. Since her innocence is cast off forever, Myop concedes that her world cannot

be full of sunshine and fun. Also, she presents the flowers as a tribute to all the people before her who were mistreated by society. It is a sincere gift in honor of those people through the form of deserting innocence.

Everyone starts off as a child like Myop. Younger people are generally inclined to the positive, brightness of life before they eventually come to learn about the darkness. Myop stands as a symbol for humans who perceive insight on the world and lose their innocent minds. Because <sup>innocence</sup> it is ephemeral, it cannot be regained once it has been lost. For the days to come, Myop will not feel the same about skipping across the animals and gardens on a sunny ~~day~~ morning.