

Reflections on *Seedfolks*

by Charlotte C.

Comparing and Contrasting Kim and Sam

Kim and Sam have a lot of differences, but surprisingly they have a lot of similarities too.

Kim is a young Vietnamese girl, probably still in elementary school. She plants lima beans to try to get some connection with her father. Her father died before Kim met him. In Vietnam her father was a farmer. She starts in the garden in April, and she doesn't know it but one day when her plants are dying, Wendell waters them. I think that she gains a connection with her father because she comes back the next year.

Sam is a seventy-eight year old, Jewish American. He plants pumpkins, because that is what the teenager he hired decided with him on. Sam used to try to help the world get together, but now he is retired. He starts in June. He gains a disappointment because like he says "the garden had been turned back into Cleveland." What he means by that is that all the Asians are on one side, all the African Americans on another, the Hispanics on another except for a few people.

I Admire Nora Because...

I admire how much of Nora's time goes to Mr. Myles. He has had two strokes, and so now he can't talk. Nora is a British nurse who is probably from fifty to sixty years old. Every morning she brings him for a walk in his wheelchair. She also helps him in the garden a bit by getting a big barrel that's tall enough for him so that he can reach from his wheelchair to plant his flowers. I wonder if it's hard for her because he can't talk to her and do much with her.

Analyzing a Quote From Marciela

"Whole city shuts down, but the garden just keeps on going", Leona said."(p.72)

Even if the power goes out, nature still keeps on going. Leona says this to Maricela when they are in the garden and the city's power goes out. That is also the time when Leona gives Marciela some golden rod. Marciela is a pregnant teenager who gets involved in the garden by a teen pregnancy program. Leona is a middle aged woman who is black, and gets involved in the garden because she sees people in the garden with all the trash, and wants to get the trash cleaned up.

This phrase really is important to the book because the story is about a garden, and I think it means that you need to have other things to rely on other than electrical power. It means that even if we didn't have power and things like refrigerators, microwaves, computers, televisions, electric lights and things like that, we would still have nature no matter what. That phrase to Marciela means that life is not just about being popular, pretty and things like that. That is when she starts to realize that.

I think that it matters, because the book is sort of about how nature brings a community. I think that the quote states why it's so important. It also connects to me because me and my dad garden. He has a vegetable garden, and an herb/flower garden. The flower/herb garden is divided into two, the shade garden, and the sun garden. In the sun garden, there are the plants that need sun, and in the shade garden are the plants that can't have much sun. I water the plants, and sometimes I pick the vegetables.

