

Reflections on *Seedfolks*

By Erin D.

Comparing and Contrasting Ana & Nora

Both Ana and Nora are elderly women who live in Cleveland, Ohio. Both both play an important role in the garden, though they never meet. Ana sits at her daily, watching not only the garden, but a sliver of Lake Erie and about forty windows of different neighborhoods. Nora can see all of Ana's view including the garden, by walking Mr. Myles daily, for fresh air and exercise. It is a part of the day where she can see what is going on in the world and to let Mr. Myles clear his head.

Both Ana and Nora become acquainted with the people in the garden, whether it is from the forty windows or on the sidewalk. Seeing the garden grow is a pleasure for both women. Though Ana did not grow any of her own produce because of her health, she did see that Kim's lima beans were in desperate need for water and she became part of the garden's many people, though in a secret way. When Nora passes the garden, she and Mr. Myles are very pleased in what they see, with lots of beautiful plants planted by various people from different places in the world.

From my experience when reading *Seedfolks*, I have found that both women are very curious about what is happening around them. Always wanting to look where all the action is going.

I picked Nora and Ana because they have lots of differences, but they both are very similar when it comes to being nosy in their own ways. I wonder if one day they will finally meet after being so engrossed in watching the garden's people and plants?

Analyzing a Pull Quote From Nora

"He was a salmon traveling upstream through his past." (p. 61)

Nora, the English nurse, often wonders about her patient Mr. Myles, a mystery in many ways to her. Since his two strokes, he is unable to speak with people. Pushing his wheelchair everyday for exercise and fresh air, Nora often wonders about what he is thinking about and why.

I think this quote explains that Mr. Myles is a man who has many thoughts, too many to hold in his head at once. But I wonder too, what is he thinking about and why? Is he remembering his childhood? His life before his two strokes? I think this quote means that he is reviewing his life from the moment he was born, tracing all of the years he's been alive until he got to the present. When I read this quote, I really start to think further, and then I thought, even after doing an essay about this sentence, Mr. Myles and the quote is still going to have me baffled for quite a long time.

I think this quote is important because so many people have many interesting thoughts, and sometimes people can't express their own feelings. I hope that if I ever meet someone interesting, I hope that I can learn lots of interesting stories of their childhood, and adulthood.

What I Admire About Ana

I admire Ana a lot because she is somewhat like me in a way. Just like Ana, I do not need a TV to entertain myself. I would rather see what's going on in my neighborhood by biking, running, or skiing on the Hardy's track. Ana is a very interesting person, and she is someone that I would like to meet because she seems like she has so many stories to tell, whether it is about the garden or her life.

I admire how when Ana messes up in the book by digging up Kim's lima beans, she realizes that she made a big mistake, and soon afterwards took a more positive outlook on life. I hope that I can be like Ana if I ever mess up big time, in my life, and hopefully realize what I did and why it was wrong.

