

# Reflections on *Seedfolks*

by Jennie F

## Reflection on a quote from Curtis

"But when I came up to her on the street, she turned her back. Wouldn't let me explain. Twice it happened. No chance for words. So I decided to give her some deeds instead." (p. 52-53)

This quote appears in Curtis's chapter, when Curtis wants to be with Lateesha again. He comes back from Cincinnati, and finds out she's still living in the same apartment, still single. As it says in the quote, Curtis tries talking to her, apologizing. They were together, and she claims that he hadn't been sincere. You know that that has got to take a lot of work to get back. Each time he tries, she looks away, walks the other direction, avoids him. This is when Curtis realizes he's not going to win her back by trying to explain. He has to "give her some deeds."

I think that this quote has a very important role in this chapter. This is the moment when Curtis realizes that he needs to do more, that just saying he's sorry isn't going to be enough, that he needs to actually *do* something. This is when he comes up with the idea to plant tomatoes, Lateesha's favorite food, and label his plot in the community garden "Lateesha's tomatoes."

If I think about this quote and the real world, outside of *Seedfolks*, there is only one instance in which that I can relate to myself. It's that when you get in a fight with your friend (it's happened to me) sometimes just saying your sorry doesn't cut it. You have to do something for that person. *Show* them that your sorry, instead of just saying it. I think that almost anybody can relate to the quote in that way, or at least understand it better after thinking about it like that. Thinking that sometimes you have to do more than the obvious, you have to work hard for what you want. If it's worth getting, chances are it's not going to be easy, you're going to have to do *more* than what's easy. You're going to have to work for it.



## Sam, Patcher of the World

I think that it's pretty easy to admire Sam. First of all, he devoted his entire career to patching up the world, little by little. Even when he retired, he went to fixing the city he lived in. In other words, Sam was always working for other people, working to help everyone else--even when it wasn't his profession anymore. For example, Sam explains what he does by giving you examples. He smiles at people, talks to them, especially black people and foreigners. He shows them that he's friendly. He starts conversations on waiting lines. His goal is to get them talking to each other, to get everyone to be friendly. I think what I admire most about Sam is his persistence. He just keeps working at it, working at it, working at it. I think that if anyone was going to abolish world violence and create world peace, it would be Sam. I think that Sam has the most patience of anyone in the book, and that deserves special admiration.

## Comparing and Contrasting Sae Young and Maricela

Although Maricela and Sae Young are very different at first glance, if you look closely, I think you'll find they have a lot in common. First, neither of them have husbands, although Sae Young once did. Another similarity that both of them are much better off after working in the garden than they were before. Sae Young starts being a part of the community again, and Maricela actually learns to, even if just a little, love her baby. Although Maricela and Sae Young are very similar, there are still a few obvious differences. One is their age. Sae Young is about forty, and Maricela is only sixteen. One difference you really have to think about to understand, is that Sae Young wanted kids, but never had any. Maricela never wanted to have a baby, but got pregnant all the same. Another hard-to-come-by difference is that, from working in the garden, Maricela connects with just her baby, Leona (Leona is the one that, when talking to her in the garden, does the most part in helping Maricela love her baby), and nature, while Sae Young connects with all the people in the community, her new friends. So, all in all, Sae Young and Maricela are full of similarities and differences, you just have to look hard to find them.