

Reflections on *Seedfolks*

by Max B

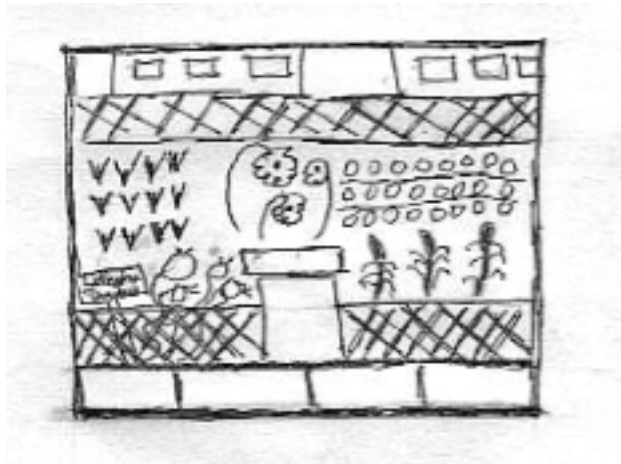
Analyzing a Quote From Florence

"My grandmother's sampler from when she was a girl, said, 'Be not solitary be, not idle.' That was easy all those years in the library, being retired it's harder" (p. 84)

This passage says that when Florence's grandmother was little girl, she had a sampler (an embroidered piece of cloth with words on) that said "Be not solitary be not idle." It also informs us that Florence had been a librarian. Now that she's retired it's much harder follow the sampler's advice. This is said when Florence is narrating. I think that during the time this was spoken Florence was feeling reflective and reminiscent.

In my view this quote expresses the moral of the story. The heart of the quote "Be not solitary, be not idle" is also the heart of the story. Throughout the book, characters go from being solitary and idle to being social and active. For example, Sae Young went from being afraid of people to being a strong participant in the garden I think this quote is a prime example of what the book means.

This quote matters an incredible amount to the world and I know it matters to me (when I'm sad and solitary talking and socializing always cheers me up). In the world there are always people who who live alone and idly. Even if these people have something to say, they are either scared, and therefore untrusting of others, or they are too fed up with the world to care. If people started practicing the "Be not solitary, be not idle," the world would be a more social and active place.



Comparing and Contrasting Florence and Amir

Florence and Amir were both participants in the garden, but they participated in very different ways. Amir participated in the garden in a highly physical manner, while Florence participated in a more reflective and emotional way. Amir's hands were also a major part of his gardening experience, while Florence's hands have arthritis, which prevented her from using them to garden. Florence also spent her time watching the garden and thinking, but Amir talked and got to know many of the gardeners well.

Despite their differences, Florence and Amir have many similarities. Both Florence and Amir reconnect strongly to their past in the garden, Florence grew up in the country, Amir was a farmer in India. Amir and Florence also gained hope and optimism about the next year of gardening. Both characters gained a proud, protective feeling about the garden. In my view these two late- appearing characters have a huge affect on the story. That's why I chose them to compare and contrast.

Nora, the Patient One

Although Paul Flieschman created many admirable characters in *Seedfolks* I think one of the most admirable is Nora. The specific quality of Nora which I admire is her patience and care with Mr. Myles, an older man who has suffered a stroke and cannot speak. For example whenever she can, Nora is always taking Mr. Myles "for walks." When he wanted to go to the garden, Nora obeyed his command and patiently planted flowers with him. Nora also easily and patiently dealt with Mr. Myles' lack of speech. I know if I was sick I would want a nurse like Nora.