

Discussion Questions
excerpt from “Hands: For Mother’s Day;” “Lucinda Matlock;”
“Thinkin’ on Marryin’;” “Same Song”

excerpt from “Hands: For Mother’s Day”

1. From the words “dry, rough hands,” what might you infer about the daily lives of the quilters?
2. In this soliloquy, the speaker in the poem says that quilters “survive on...the leftovers from a materially richer culture.” What do the speaker’s words emphasize about the quilters?
3. To whom do you think the “we” in the poem refers? Explain your response with examples from the poem.

“Lucinda Matlock”

1. What do we find out about Lucinda Matlock’s life from the poem?
2. What is Lucinda Matlock’s attitude about dying?
3. What do we learn about the speaker from the last five lines of the poem?

“Thinkin’ on Marryin’”

1. Which details support the main idea that quilts were essential household items in this speaker’s early years?
2. What do you learn about the lives of the women in the speaker’s community when she was young?
3. Locate a statement of fact and an opinion from the reading.

“Same Song”

1. How do the son and daughter feel about the way they look? What word gives you a clue?
2. How do you interpret line 12—“not fair”? What two meanings could the word fair have here?
3. What theme, or message, do you think the poem conveys?