From the essay “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens”

Why is the apostrophe after the s in mothers?

Background

Women’s movement in the 1960s and 70s was a reconsideration of art by women were the “low arts” of cooking, gardening, sewing, and storytelling were looked at as a way to showcase one’s creativity.

Vocabulary words to know from the story

Impatient
Vibrant
Medium (in an artistic sense)
Profusely
Ingenious

What do we learn about Alice Walker’s parents?
What was volatile at Alice Walker’s home?
What was creative about Alice Walker’s mother?
Pay attention to the word choice—page 524
Why are the words “muzzled” and “mutilated” used?
What is Alice Walker’s inspiration for much of her writing?
How does Alice describe her mother?
How does Alice’s mother show determination and dedication?
What sentence on page 526 shows how optimistic Alice Walker’s mother was?
Describe the symbolism of “I hear again the praise showered on her because whatever rocky soil she landed on, she turned into a garden.”
How do others feel about the work of Alice Walker’s mother?
What can we infer about Alice Walker’s mother’s appearance? Look for the hint on 526.
Why are the words Creator, Beauty, and Art capitalized on page 526?
What is the message of the poem on 526?
Compare/contrast the artistic qualities of Alice and her mother.
Who is Phillis Wheatley?
What is admirable about Alice Walker’s mother?
What does her mother’s garden symbolize to Alice? What does it represent to her mother?
What is the main idea of this essay excerpt?