Making comparisons

N.B. All quotes and references are taken from the Phoenix 2002 edition of The Color Purple.

Answer the following questions. Include quotations and analysis of the text within your answer.

1) How does the opening phrase create a sense of foreboding and what is it referring to?

2) In letter 7, how much choice does Celie have over her marriage? In what way can you link this to Wuthering Heights?

3) Why do you think education is so important to Nettie and Celie?

4) What does Celie mean when she says she ‘make myself wood’ on p. 23?

5) In some ways Catherine Earnshaw/Linton can be described as a strong woman. Who could you link this to in The Color Purple and why?

6) How would you describe Celie’s opinion of Shug Avery
   a) before they meet?
   b) after they meet?

7) ‘Halfway tween good and evil.’ (p. 54) Why might Shug Avery be described in this way? What character might she be linked to in Wuthering Heights?

8) What similarities are there in the way characters (male or female) gain control in the two novels?

9) Think about Harpo and Sofia. Why does he hit her? Is cruelty something natural in the novel or something that can be taught?

10) In what ways could you compare Walker’s writing style (when she’s writing as Nettie) to Bronte’s? (pp.123-8)

11) There is a lot of prejudice discussed in The Color Purple. What are these prejudices? Do you think this is also true of Wuthering Heights?

12) What is different about how illness is presented in The Color Purple compared to Wuthering Heights?

13) How do things start changing for the better on pp.192-3? Is this similar to Wuthering Heights?

14) What do you make of Mr _______’s change?

15) Inheritance and sex often have negative connotations in Wuthering Heights. How is this different in The Color Purple?

16) Do you think there is a sense of tragedy in
   a) Wuthering Heights?
   b) The Color Purple?