

Replanting Mrs. Jones

Using Langston Hughes' "Thank You M'am" as a starting point, develop the character of Mrs. Jones. We're going to dig her out of her world and plant her in the community garden neighborhood of Paul Fleischman's *Seedfolks*.

Imagine that **you are Mrs. Jones**. One night on your way home from work late at night, you notice a light at the back of the vacant lot. Curious, you walk between the bags of trash to find out what's going on. The light disappears. You find something interesting going on at the back of the lot, and you make a decision. The next morning before work, you go to the shop and buy some seeds. When you come back to the garden, you meet someone who has also planted seeds. After your conversation, you have a positive feeling.

You may invent information about Mrs. Jones as necessary, **but it must fit with what we know of her in "Thank You M'am"**.

For instance, you might say she likes going to the movies, but you shouldn't say she attended a Swiss boarding school or that she was a European spy in World War II.

Name: Mrs. Jones

Age: 67

Male Female

A brief background of my character: She went to a normal school in New York as a kid. But she moved to Cleveland when she was just 29 years old, after her mother passed away. She took over her mother's apartment and took care of her father until he died shortly after from cancer. She never had the money to move back to New York, and was bound to spend the rest of her life in Cleveland. She was also known as Mrs. Henderson-Jones for four years of her life, when she was married to Thomas Henderson, but they were divorced after that short period of time. The only real 'friends' Mrs. Jones has is her cat, Wasabi, and her only other elderly neighbor, Anna. She was a teacher for 38 years, explaining her harshness, but also giving her some generosity.

=My character could be described as

Generous, Strict

I plan to show what type of personality my character has through:

Actions: A small limp because of old age and when she broke her hip a few years ago.	Speech: She has a raspy voice and sometimes says snarky or smart comments.
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<p>Thoughts:</p> <p>She will be inquisitive and likes to be in other people's business.</p>	<p>Appearance:</p> <p>Hair always in a bun, long skirts and white cardigans. She won't have too many wrinkles, making people guess she is in her early 60s</p>
<p>How Others Relate or React:</p> <p>She is kinder to children than to adults, and has high expectations, meaning she wants things to be done on time and correctly.</p>	<p>Body Language:</p> <p>She is always smiling and is quite friendly, she tries to carry herself straight, but her old age makes her slump a bit.</p>

Two people with whom my character will interact are:

Kim and Anna

Any other details you can think of?