Essay

Explain the metaphor in the title *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds.* How is Tillie’s identity established through the metaphor of her experiment?

Guidelines:

* Write a clear thesis statement in response to the prompt
* Make assertions about three key symbols and connect them to the central metaphor
* Use evidence from the text to back up your assertions

Use your notes and the play

Thesis:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Event 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Symbol 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* interpretation 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Consider the metaphor of the irradiated marigolds. How can you create an argument about Tillie, her experiment and her relationships with family and school?

You are showing a deep understanding of the story in terms of plot, theme, and symbol. Other essays you have written like this is the one on the swimming scene in Annie John, or the landscape in GE. Instead of looking at one particular scene, you are looking at the metaphor of the marigolds as it moves through the text. The experiment (seeds, soil, flowers, mutations, gamma rays, half-life) is a metaphor for Tillie’s life—it tells the story of her struggle to move from seed to flower in a hostile environment.

Themes – Tillie’s struggle to survive, Hunsdorfer family as inspiration, Hunsdorfer family as obstacle, Tillie’s school as accepting, Tillie’s education as escape, Tillie’s Ostracization,

Plot – Metaphor – symbol – theme

The specific events in the story are centered around her experiment, which is a metaphor containing symbols, and the story of her life expresses a theme that is a complex truth about the human condition.

The title of the book is the title of her experiment. She has studied the way that gamma rays effect the growth of marigold seeds, which leads her to want to become a scientist.