

The Book *Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson

Background information: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/blue-skinned-people-kentucky-reveal-todays-genetic-lesson/story?id=15759819>

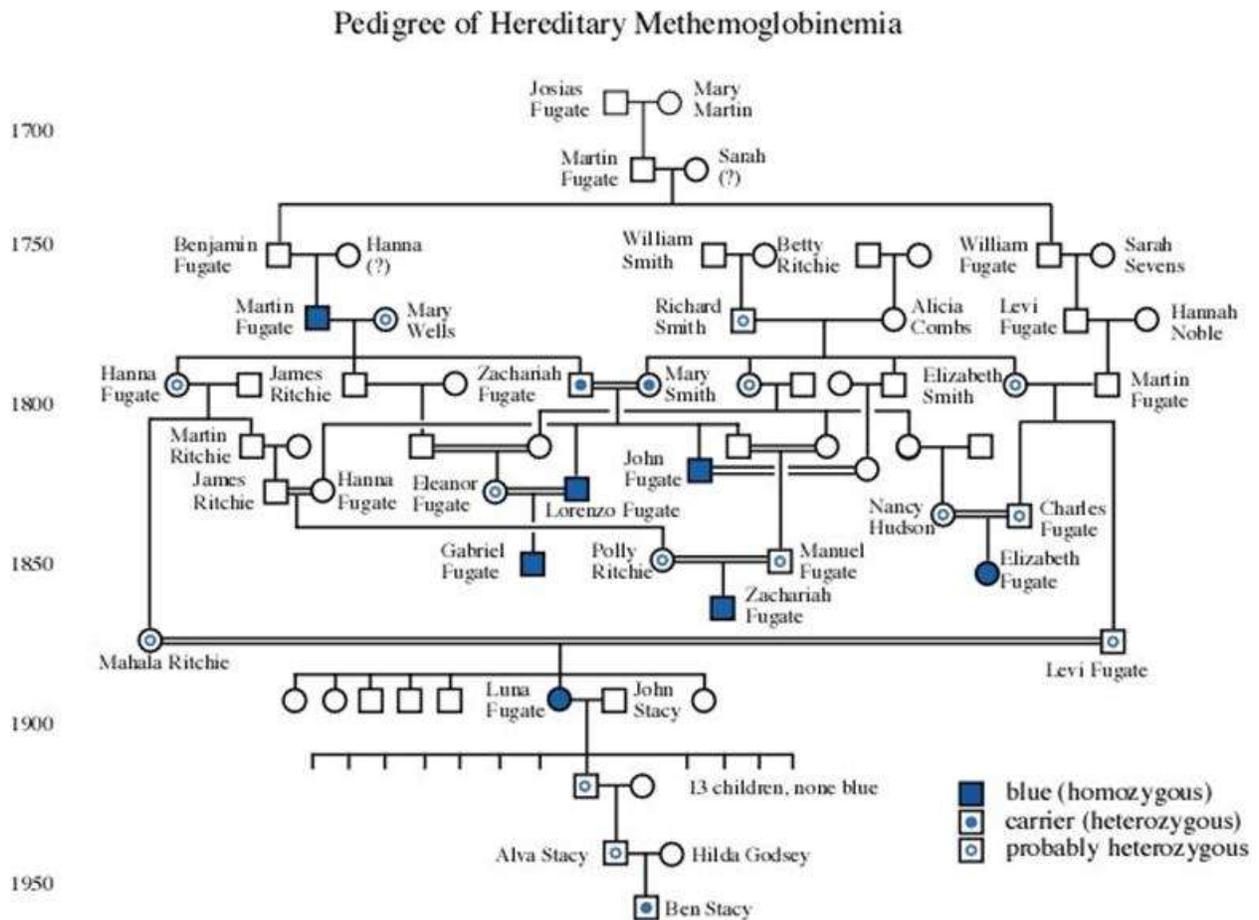
1-What is the name of the genetic condition that Cussy's family has?

2-What relative of Cussy's brought this condition to this area?

This story takes place in Appalachia during the Depression Era. Food and resources were scarce throughout the United States. It is a fictionalized account of an actual group of people in Troublesome Creek, Kentucky. The family's name was Fugate.

3-Describe the type of inheritance in this genetic condition of blueness.

Examine the pedigree chart below and answer the questions below it.



4-What does it mean if someone is a carrier of a disease?

5-Do you see any issue with the marriages in this pedigree chart? If so, list an example and determine what the couples' relationship was prior to marriage (ex. Cousin, etc.)?

6-What would marriage between related individuals do to the gene pool?

7-How many generations are in this pedigree?

8-In the beginning of the book, Cussy describes people being afflicted with pellagra disease? What is this disease? What are the symptoms? Causes? Treatment?

9-Corn was a staple of Appalachia diets in people of the hills. What vitamins are found in corn?

10- Read the following account. <https://appalachiantrailhistory.org/exhibits/show/hardships/corn-diet-deficiency-appalachi> Describe what the native peoples did that the settlers did not do, that prevented pellagra.

*11-Missionaries, government, social workers, and various religious groups have always visited eastern Kentucky to reform, modernize, and mold hill folk to their acceptable standards. Do you think Cussy faced this kind of prejudice from the outside world? Is there any prejudice or stigma associated with the people of Appalachia today?

*12-When Cussy receives the cure for her blueness from Doc, she realizes there's a price to pay for her white skin, and the side effects soon become too much to handle. If you were in Cussy's shoes, would you sacrifice your health for a chance at "normalcy"? If there weren't any side effects, do you think Cussy would have continued to take the medication? Would you?

*Taken from <https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/11547-book-woman-of-troublesome-creek-richardson?start=3>