Themes in *Seedfolks*

**1. Community**

Wendell – He and Ana work together because they are the only white people in the neighborhood; they feel they have a shared bond and help each other

Leona – She takes action to help her community. She goes to the Public Health Department to complain about the trash at the vacant lot. She proves her point and eventually gets what she wants. The city finally cleans the lot. Leona has made a difference in her community.

**2. Perspective**

Ana – from her perspective, the neighborhood has “gone downhill” in the last several years; she liked it better when the neighborhood was full of fellow Rumanians

Wendell – From his perspective, life is painful and full of loss. His son was shot and killed, and his wife died in a car accident.

Gonzalo – From his perspective, life is challenging. He has to translate for his dad on the phone, in stores, and when talking to the landlord. Gonzalo also has to take care of his uncle. He has a lot of responsibilities for a kid.

**3. Culture**

Wendell – He refers to specific lines from the Holy Bible, so Christianity is part of his culture.

Kim – her Buddhist faith is evident in the altar she has at home; the candles, incense, photograph of her father is a way to remember him

Gonzalo – He was born in Guatemala. Spanish is part of his culture. Taking care of family is part of his culture. Farming seems to be part of Tio Juan’s culture.

**4. Acceptance**

Sam – He accepts people’s differences and does not stereotype or judge based on race, religion, or other features.

Kim – She has to accept that she’ll never get to have a face-to-face relationship with her father. Through the garden, she develops a connection with him. She can learn to accept his death while still acknowledging him.

Ana – She cannot seem to accept that her neighborhood has changed. She does not seem willing to accept people of different nationalities, religions, races, etc.

Leona – She is unwilling to accept NO for an answer when government officials refuse to clean the vacant lot. She persists and gets her way. Leona is determined!

Wendell – “There’s plenty about my life I can’t change. Can’t bring the dead back to life on this earth. Can’t change myself into a millionaire. But a patch of ground in this trashy lot – I can change that.” (page 15)