

## American Literature: Banned Books

Due Tuesday 10/7

### Beloved Response 4

Read Chapter 20 through the end of Chapter 28 (the end) of Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*. (Note: the chapters aren't officially labeled and page numbers vary between editions, so the chapters have been numbered by hand). As you read, take notes of points of interest and quotes with page numbers. Don't write in the book, but sticky tabs can help keep track of pages to refer back to in discussion and essays. Then write a 2-3 page informal reflection detailing your thoughts & reactions to the reading. You don't need to summarize the reading, but make sure to talk about points from the whole section to demonstrate you've completed the full reading. This is not a structured formal essay, but an open-ended exploration of the text that can help you engage with the book and formulate your ideas for later essays.

Consider the following guiding questions:

- What in the reading spoke to you? What could you relate to or learn from? Are there any particular quotes that stood out as interesting? Why? Explain.
- What do you notice about the characters? What changes do you notice? How would you describe their personalities? Their desires? Their fears? The challenges they face or have faced? Their relationships with each other? Their conflicts with either themselves or others? The choices they make and why they make them? Who are some of the new or peripheral characters and what roles do they play in the story?
- What themes are emerging? What aspects of these themes do you think Morrison is trying to get across? How are different characters affected by these themes? How does this story reveal perspectives and experiences of this time and place in history?
- What do you notice about Morrison's writing style? What do you notice about plot structure, shifts in perspectives and points of view, use of details, symbolism, and metaphors, and approach towards dialogue? What stands out to you as particularly effective or not and why? Any examples of highlights or lines that stand out as particularly artful?
- What's your general impression of what's happening? Are there parts you're confused by? What questions do you have?
- What do you make of the end of the novel? What reflections do you have on the arc of the novel and characters' journeys overall?

This response is due by class time (12:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, October 7th. Be prepared to discuss the reading in class.