

American Literature: Banned Books

Due Tuesday 9/16

Beloved Response 1

Read up through the end of Chapter 5 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 (particularly Sethe, Paul D, and Denver)? 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?
- What do you notice about the time period and setting? What is the context for this story?
- What do you make of the house at 124? What's unusual about it?
- What's your general impression of what's happening? Are there parts you're confused by? What questions do you have?

This response is due by class time (12:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, September 16th. Be prepared to discuss the reading in class.