

**The Bluest Eye**  
By Toni Morrison

Prologue (pp. 1-6)

Section 1

- Describe the language and how it changes throughout the prologue.
- Predict why the language changes.

Section 2

- Who is the father of Pecola's baby?
- What is the connection between Pecola and the marigolds?
- What is foreshadowed about the baby and Cholly?

**"Autumn"** - Chapter One (pp. 9-32)

Write details about the following characters from chapter 1.

Characters

Rosemary Villanucci

Claudia

Mr. Henry Washington

Della Jones

Frieda

Pecola

Mrs. MacTeer

Cholly Breedlove

Mrs. Breedlove

Sammy

Study questions

- Explain the irony of the very first line (of nuns and lust)
- What is the local industry and what kind of atmosphere does it create?
- How is illness treated in their house?
- What is Claudia's mother angry at? Where does she direct her anger?
- Why did Mr. Henry leave Mrs. Della Jones's house?
- What is conversation compared to? Explain the simile on page 15.
- What does the way Mr. Henry smells reveal about his character?
- How do the girls react to him? Their mother?
- What is foreshadowed about him?
- Why does Pecola come to stay with them?
- What's the difference between being "put out" and "put out of doors?"
- How does Claudia feel about Bojangles?
- Describe the conflicting feelings Claudia has about the dolls.
- How do her ideas about "clean" and "dirty" change over time?
- How does Frieda respond to Pecola's bleeding?

### Evaluative questions

- Why does the author (Toni Morrison) use dialogue on pages 13 - 15? Is it an effective use of dialogue?
- Identify and explain why Claudia does not like the two things on pages 19 - 21. How do they relate to societal standards of beauty?
- Summarize the passage talking about singing on pages 25 - 26. Judge the value of the songs to Claudia.
- Summarize page 32. Why aren't the songs from pages 25-26 effective at helping Claudia answer Pecola's question about how to get someone to love her?