

Week 7

Discussion Questions for the end of *Beloved*.

Locate textual evidence to support your analyses.

1. What does the novel seem to say about isolation versus community? Assuming that we see Sethe as saved at the end of the novel, to what would you attribute her salvation?
2. Is Edward Bodwin a racist?
3. No one in the novel seems to have a clear recollection of *Beloved* or what happened to her; and the final chapter of the novel seems to be related to this phenomenon. What is Toni Morrison saying about memory and narrative, etc.?
4. Recalling the various tropes and traditions of African American literature we have studied, how does Morrison make use of them in her novel? (Things like, the Middle Passage, folktales, jeremiads, feminism.) Does she alter any of them? If so, how and why?

You will not write a mini-essay on any of these questions, but they may spark some ideas for your final paper or project.