



## AP English Literature 2000 Student Samples

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Question 3

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Toni Morrison's Beloved is a poignant ~~and~~ evocation of the Black-American experience of a time when society was dominated by prejudices and inhumane treatment. This eponymous novel, which contains a character, Beloved, is characterized by the girl's mysterious and supernatural presence.

Toni Morrison's Beloved is a poignant evocation of the Black-American experience of a time when society was dominated by prejudices and inhumane treatment of slaves. The eponymous novel, with title character Beloved, is characterized by the mysterious presence of this young woman. Through a series of vivid flashbacks, and skewed narration, it is apparent that her role in the novel is more than just to provide suspense of supernatural forces; it is to highlight many of Morrison's recurring themes in the novel. Thus, Beloved's presence, and the investigation that Paul D., one of the last of the Sweet Home men carries out, highlights the prevalence of the themes of the supernatural, the ancestor-elder relationship, and the attempt to "beat back the past" by blocking out painful experiences.

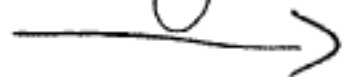
Beloved's initial arrival to 124 Bluestone road, where Sethe and her daughter Denver live, is marked by mystery as Beloved ~~is~~ randomly ~~appears~~ emerges from out of a nearby stream. The significance of her role has already begun for it ~~water~~ becomes a motif throughout the novel, as it represents life and rebirth. Paul D's uneasiness with the deep-voiced and ~~is~~ narcoleptic individual prepare the reader to question who Beloved actually is. Is she Sethe's daughter, who was murdered by Sethe in an attempt to save



her from slavery? ~~Although this is eventually~~ Although this is eventually revealed to be true, the reader is left ~~questioning~~ in question, baffled not only by Beloved but by Morrison's confusing writing style containing ~~an~~ an overwhelming amount of stream of consciousness.

Thus, as Paul D. becomes even more ~~intimidated~~ threatened by Beloved's presence, ~~but~~ due to her "shining" or sexual attractiveness, it is revealed to the reader that she has supernatural powers. She is able to move Paul D. around the house at 124 Bluestone Road, until finally she succeeds in seducing him and opening ~~his~~ the "tobacco tin" which he carries in place of his heart. Her ability to this conveys the power of the supernatural, which scares Paul D., yet is welcomed by Sethe and Denver. The point Morrison is trying to make is that we should be more accepting of the supernatural, similar to the actions ~~that~~ of Sethe ~~and the other people~~ who allows Beloved to remain in her house, until she eventually destroys her relationship with Paul D. Even before Beloved's arrival Sethe and Denver don't even question the fact that they have a baby ghost living and dominating their household, since the supernatural ~~is~~ is something that many slaves hold onto in the past.

As the readers learn that Beloved is a representation of the ~~the~~ millions of slaves who were tormented during the Middle Passage, ~~it is clear that Morrison is trying to~~ it is lucid that her presence has much more ~~meaning~~ significance than originally believed. In fact, Morrison's dedication of her book reads "To the Sixty million." This allusion ~~not only~~ to the 60 million Jews who were persecuted during the Holocaust widens the perspective that slavery and

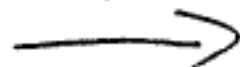


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racism in general is unacceptable. Morrison uses Beloved to display the effects of such inhumane treatment. Beloved's random thoughts about "the man on top of her" and his "yellow teeth" are allusions to the manner in which slaves were transported during the middle passage; ~~they were~~ ~~stuffed~~ thrown and compressed into undersized cargo areas where most eventually died. This theme of ~~just~~ unjust persecution ~~that~~ is utilized by Morrison as a way to remind the readers ~~that~~ of the horrible aspects of slavery. ~~Through Beloved's~~ ~~the murder~~ Beloved's rebirth, and search for what she was deprived of, her mother, are also reminders that many slaves ~~were not given~~ were deprived of their lives and ~~mother~~ ~~mother~~ that slavery was so degrading that it causes Sethe, a mother, to kill her child, to prevent her from enduring slavery's ends.

Beloved is also a representation of what Sethe tries to forget: her "rememory." Sethe refuses to remember the ends of slavery, yet it is the memories which Morrison believes we all must hold onto in order to prevent such injustices to occur again. Morrison believes that although Beloved "is not a ~~story~~ story to pass on," we ironically ~~must~~ ~~must~~ remember the messages that it contains. We must all love ourselves and <sup>this</sup> Be Lored, which helps explain Beloved's role more ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly. Her name epitomizes Morrison's message, the message Baby Suggs, Sethe's mother-in-law preaches: "Love your hands." Although ~~the~~ Blacks were stripped of their self-possession during slavery, Morrison feels that it need not remain that way. Thus, ~~she used Beloved as a~~ Beloved's function ~~thing~~



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[ ]

humanity

throughout the novel is to remind Sethe as well as the reader that ~~we~~ must face the past, ~~to make our past regrets~~ even if it is painful, in order to face the future as ~~we~~ human beings.

Therefore, ~~Beloved's~~ Beloved's role in Morrison's novel ~~Beloved~~, helps the author to uplift simple truths ~~into~~ into humanity. ~~As humans we are faced with painful past experiences~~ Beloved is a representation of the pain ~~stained~~ felt ~~as well as a representation of the hope~~ that people should have ~~no~~ thing try to ~~destroy~~ ~~Beloved's~~ Beloved

→ concerning how to treat our fellow human beings. ~~But~~ The mystery that surrounds Beloved is crucial to the novel, also b/c it reminds the reader that our power ~~to~~ as humans should never be overestimated or used destructively. Humanity must reflect on the wrongdoings of the past, but need not dwell on the problems in the form of prejudices or stereotypes. Instead we must realize that like Beloved, ~~we~~ all ~~deserve to be~~ who is deprived of love as a young child, we all are capable ~~and of loving and being~~ and deserving ~~of loving, and des~~ to love and be loved, by ourselves as well as others.

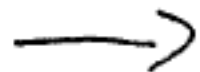
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In Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter, Roger Chillingworth confronts the mystery of identifying Hester Prynne's accomplice in her ignominious sin of adultery. Roger Chillingworth determines to bring ruination upon the partner of Hester's crime. Chillingworth's investigation of the mystery enhances the novel as a whole by causing Arthur Dimmesdale's physical and psychological decay. Chillingworth's effort to discover and expose the partner of Hester's crime also presents a contrast between Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale as they struggle in different ways

~~with their common sin~~ with their common sin in different ways. The process of the investigation leads to Arthur Dimmesdale's eventual confession of his crime.

Chillingworth's ~~the~~ investigation presents the theme of guilt, confession, and consequences of ~~the~~ sin.

Chillingworth's dedication to find the accomplice of Hester's adulterous affair is foreshadowed earlier in the novel. In Hester's prison cell, Hester and Chillingworth have a private meeting. Chillingworth is sent to Hester as a physician. Chillingworth asks Hester to conceal the nature of their relationship as husband and wife. And when asked by Hester if he is planning to cause the ruination of her soul, he answers, "not thy soul, not mine." Chillingworth is determined to destroy the partner of Hester's crime from the start of the novel.



Chillingworth becomes Dimmesdale's physician. ~~Dimmesdale~~ Dimmesdale is in need of medical attention because his guilty conscience causes physical weariness that becomes evident to the townspeople of Boston. Dimmesdale wishes to reveal his awful deed in front of the entire town and to be punished for his sin as Hester has been, yet his conscience won't allow him to confess. ~~Dimmesdale~~ Dimmesdale wishes in part that his sin ~~will~~ be revealed through Hester while she is on the scaffold for public humiliation. Dimmesdale charges Hester to reveal the father of her baby, but she firmly refuses to do so. As Chillingworth and Dimmesdale develop a friendship, Chillingworth begins to become suspicious of Dimmesdale. Unaware ~~that~~ of Chillingworth's resolution to solve the mystery of Hester's adulterous engagement, Dimmesdale trusts in Chillingworth as a friend and relies on him. It is when Chillingworth discovers the letter "A" on Dimmesdale's chest while he is asleep that Chillingworth is certain that Dimmesdale is the accomplice in Hester's sin.

Chillingworth's investigation establishes a contrast between Hester and Dimmesdale. Hester suffers the consequences of her sin by living as a recluse at a small cottage with the ignominious scarlet letter on her bosom. Hester must also endure the pain her daughter Pearl causes her. Pearl is both "[her] happiness and [her] sorrow." Pearl is a direct consequence of Hester's sin, and is a constant reminder that Hester's identity is the weaker of the

Scarlet letter. When Hester rips off the scarlet letter in the forest while planning to escape to England with Dimmesdale, Pearl becomes frantic and forces Hester to put her scarlet letter back on. Dimmesdale's struggle with the sin ~~of~~ of adultery is internal. Dimmesdale is torn between action and inaction with regards to confessing his sin. Dimmesdale must live a hypocritical life in which he is viewed as "little less than a heaven-ordained apostle" while in reality he is a sinner just like Hester Prynne. Dimmesdale places himself at the scaffold in the middle of the night and wishes he has the courage to stand on the scaffold with Hester and Pearl before his townspeople. A sexton who picks up the glove Dimmesdale has dropped on the scaffold states ironically, "A pure hand needs no glove to cover it."

Chillingworth's plan to ruin Dimmesdale is thwarted by Dimmesdale's own confession of his sin. On the day of the Puritan town's ~~celebration~~ ~~celebration~~ election of magistrates, the town's rare day of celebration and festivities, Dimmesdale walks up to the scaffold and stands with Hester and Pearl, forming an "electric chain." Dimmesdale dies immediately after his confession, in his beloved Hester's arms. Dimmesdale's confession terminates Chillingworth's purpose in life. Without his victim, Chillingworth is empty of a purpose to go on.

Chillingworth's investigation of Hester's partner in crime is the way in which Nathaniel Hawthorne presents central themes of the novel such as





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guilt, the consequences of guilt, confession of one's ~~crime~~  
sin. and

Chillingworth's ~~the~~ determination in investigating the mystery  
causes the physical and psychological deterioration of  
Arthur Dimmesdale, and also establishes a contrast  
between Hester and Dimmesdale in their struggle with  
their common crime.

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