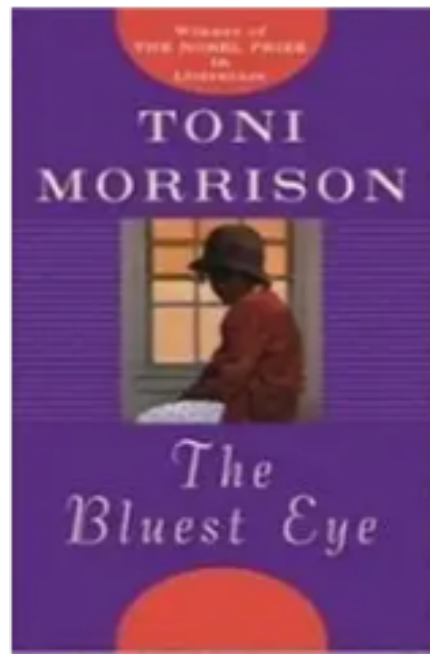


THE BLUEST EYE

Toni Morrison



RESOURCE GUIDE

Reading + Writing + Analysis

NO PREP

PRINT & GO

HIGH SCHOOL ELA

About the Text

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison explores the experiences of Pecola Breedlove, a young girl who believes that having blue eyes will make her beautiful and accepted. Through multiple perspectives, the novel examines how societal standards, identity, and internalized beliefs shape the way individuals see themselves and others.

Key Themes

- Identity
- Beauty standards
- Race and self-perception
- Power and belonging

Before You Read

How do societal standards influence the way people see themselves?

What happens when someone believes they are not valued or accepted?

Section Breakdown

SECTION 1: Beginning

Focus: Introduction + Identity + Perspective

- Introduction to Pecola and her environment
- Establishment of setting and tone
- Early signs of internal conflict
- Multiple perspectives introduced

SECTION 2: Development

Focus: Beauty + Self-Perception

- Exploration of beauty standards
- How characters view themselves and others
- Influence of family and community
- Growing emotional conflict

SECTION 3: Turning Point

Focus: Trauma + Internal Conflict

- Key events that shift the story
- Deepening internal struggles
- Effects of environment and relationships
- Escalation of conflict

SECTION 4: Resolution

Focus: Consequences + Reflection

- Outcomes of key events
- Character changes and realizations
- Themes of identity and perception
- Reflection on the novel's message

Comprehension Questions:

SECTION 1

1. Who is Pecola and what is her situation at the beginning of the novel?
2. How is the setting introduced and what does it reveal about the community?
3. What early signs show how Pecola sees herself?
4. How do other characters respond to Pecola?
5. What perspectives are introduced in this section?

Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

How does Pecola's environment shape the way she begins to see herself?

Comprehension Questions

SECTION 2

1. How are beauty standards presented in this section?

2. How do different characters define beauty?

3. What role does family play in shaping identity?

4. How do relationships influence the way characters act?

5. What conflicts begin to develop more clearly?

Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

Why do beauty standards have such a strong impact on the characters?

Comprehension Questions

SECTION 3

1. What major events change the direction of the story?
2. How does Pecola's internal conflict deepen?
3. How do other characters respond to these events?
4. What role does trauma play in shaping the story?
5. How do themes of identity and perception become more intense?

Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

How do internal and external struggles affect Pecola's sense of self?

Comprehension Questions

SECTION 4

1. How is the story resolved or left unresolved?

2. What changes have occurred in Pecola by the end?

3. How do other characters reflect on what has happened?

4. What message does the novel leave the reader with?

5. How do the themes connect to the ending?

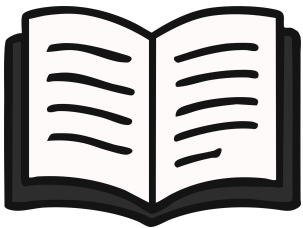
Quick Discussion

Time to Reflect

What does the novel suggest about identity and self-worth?

Extension Activity

Choose one activity to complete.



•Character journal from Pecola's perspective



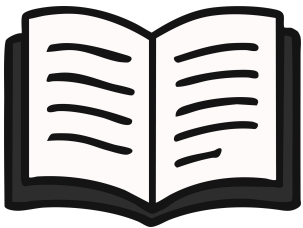
Analyze how setting influences identity



Rewrite a scene from another character's point of view

Writing Prompts

Choose one activity to complete.



How does the novel explore the impact of beauty standards on identity?



How do different perspectives shape the reader's understanding of the story?

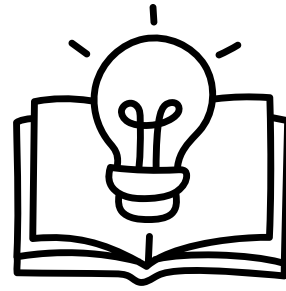


What message does the novel communicate about self-worth and belonging?

Understanding the Big Ideas

This story explores:

- Identity
- Beauty and self-worth
- Power and belonging
- Perception



Which idea do you think has the greatest impact on the characters? Explain your thinking.

Final Project

Choose one:

Literary analysis essay on a
major theme

Character study presentation

Visual or written project
exploring identity and
perception

Character Notes

Character Notes