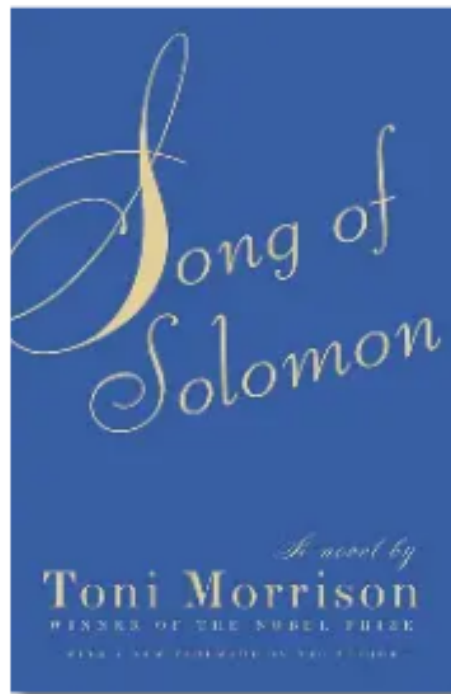


# SONG OF SOLOMON

*Toni Morrison*



## **RESOURCE GUIDE**

***Reading + Writing + Analysis***

**NO PREP**

**PRINT & GO**

**HIGH SCHOOL ELA**

# About the Text

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Song of Solomon follows Macon “Milkman” Dead III as he grows up in a wealthy but emotionally distant family and begins a journey to understand his identity. As he searches for meaning, he uncovers stories about his family’s past that reshape how he sees himself and his place in the world.

The novel explores how history, identity, and personal choices are connected. Through Milkman’s journey, readers see how understanding the past can lead to growth and self-discovery.

## **KEY THEMES**

- Identity and self-discovery
- Family history and legacy
- Freedom and independence
- Community and belonging
- Power and responsibility

## **BEFORE YOU READ**

- How does family history shape identity?
- What does it mean to find yourself?
- Why is it important to understand the past?
- How can personal choices affect growth?

# Section Breakdown

## **Section 1: Chapters 1–4**

Introduction to Milkman, family dynamics, and early identity

## **Section 2: Chapters 5–8**

Growing tensions, relationships, and search for meaning

## **Section 3: Chapters 9–12**

Journey, discovery, and uncovering family history

## **Section 4: Chapters 13–15**

Resolution, understanding, and personal growth

# *Comprehension Questions:*

## *SECTION 1*

1. How is Milkman introduced at the beginning of the novel?
2. What is his relationship with his family like?
3. How does his upbringing shape his early identity?
4. What conflicts are introduced early in the story?
5. How does the setting influence the characters?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How does family environment influence identity?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

## *SECTION 2*

1. What changes begin to occur in Milkman's life?

2. How do his relationships influence his decisions?

3. What tensions develop between characters?

4. What motivates Milkman to seek something more?

5. How does his perspective begin to shift?

# *Quick Discussion*

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## **Time to Reflect**

*Why do people begin to question  
their identity?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

## *SECTION 3*

1. What discoveries does Milkman make about his family?
2. How does his journey impact his understanding of himself?
3. What role does history play in this section?
4. How do other characters contribute to his growth?
5. How does Milkman begin to change?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How can learning about the past change a person's future?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

## *SECTION 4*

1. How does Milkman's understanding of identity evolve?

2. What final realizations does he have?

3. How do earlier conflicts reach resolution?

4. What message does the ending convey?

5. How has Milkman changed from the beginning?

# *Quick Discussion*

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## **Time to Reflect**

*What does it mean to truly understand  
yourself?*

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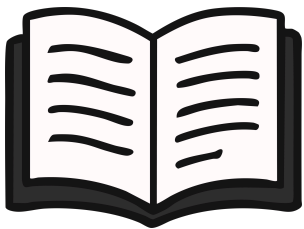
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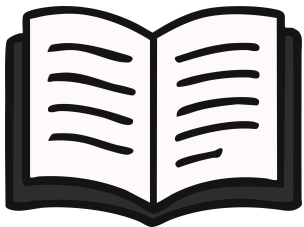
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# Extension Activity

**Choose one activity to complete.**



- Create a family tree and trace key influences



- Analyze how setting impacts identity



- Compare Milkman at the beginning and end

# *Understanding the Big Ideas*

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**This story explores:**

- **Identity is shaped by history**
  - **Growth comes through self-discovery**
  - **The past influences the present**
  - **Freedom requires understanding**
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***How does Toni Morrison show the connection between identity and family history in *Song of Solomon*? Use specific examples from the text to support your response.***

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# Final Project

## Choose One:

- Character Analysis Essay

Explain how Milkman develops throughout the novel

- Theme Analysis Presentation

Analyze a major theme such as identity or legacy

- Journey Project

Map Milkman's journey and explain its impact on his growth

# Character Notes