***Beloved* As You Read Blogging Schedule**

\*\*Every blog post is due **by 7:00 pm** the night before reading is due for *Beloved.*

\*\*For each blog post, you will **pick one of the bullet points** to write and reflect about and address all questions in that bullet point. Always include textual evidence and always consider the meaning of the work as a whole. To receive full credit, you must respond fully and completely, showing that you have not only read the work thoroughly, but also considered its many implications.

\*\*Your posts must be a **minimum** of 500 words. Each post must include at least TWO parenthetically cited quotes. Other textual evidence may be paraphrased.

\*\*You must **comment** **on at least 3** of your classmate’s blog posts **by 9:00 p.m.** the next day. Please keep a log of your comments on a sheet of notebook paper to turn in so that we can grade.

**Tuesday, April 3rd Blog Post #1 (pgs. 3-124)**

* What is the nature of Sethe's connection with Sweet Home? How does it contrast it to how she feels about 124? Where do you think Sethe truly wants to live?
* What does Paul D. mean when he describes his inner self as having a “tobacco tin buried in his chest where its heart used to be . . .its tin rusted shut,” and what were the primary reasons for the development of this state of mind? How has slavery impacted his personhood? Why would Paul D think it is still dangerous for Sethe to love her child even though they are free?
* Are there any limits to what a parent will do for her child if it is done in the name of love? In what ways do parents “love” their children in *Beloved*? In your opinion, are they truly loving them?
* Reflect on Sethe’s and Beloved’s relationship and how it differs from Sethe’s and Denver’s relationship. What does Beloved's eagerness to hear Sethe speak about her past reveal?  Why does Sethe allow Beloved to stay?  How does Sethe react to Beloved?  Does she feel safe or in jeopardy?  To what extent do Beloved's actions affect Sethe?  Why do you think Beloved choked Sethe?
* Why was it important that the ghost of Beloved become a living being?  What is Morrison's tone when writing about Beloved?  How does the audience view Beloved?
* Is Beloved a threat to Denver's life?  When Beloved choked Sethe, why didn't Denver speak up?  Why is Denver so invested in Beloved if she takes attention away from her?  How will the relationship between Denver and Beloved develop?
* How does Morrison utilize animals as a motif (i.e. horse bit, chickens, turtle) in the text?

**Thursday, April 5th Blog Post #2 (pgs. 125-198)**

* What does the bond between Paul D and the chain gang tell the reader about people who have been oppressed?  What does Paul D's experience reveal?
* Why does Baby Suggs believe, at first, that her freedom at this point is not worth it?  Do any other characters in the book feel the same way as Baby Suggs? Does anyone feel differently?
* What are Beloved's intentions for being intimate with Paul D?  How should the audience view Paul D based on this interaction?  Who is to blame?
* What is connection between Beloved and the motif of darkness?
* Who does Denver seem to choose to be loyal to? Beloved or Sethe?  What is the significance of Denver drinking the blood of her sister and the milk of her mother? What does milk/blood symbolize? How does this action portray who she is loyal to?

**Sunday, April 8th Blog Post #3 (pgs. 199-280)**

* Why does Morrison use the point of view of the four horsemen when narrating Sethe's actions of violence against her child?  Research the four horsemen, and discuss the allusion Morrison evokes.
* Why does Morrison have all three women invoke the refrain “she is mine”? Discuss the implications of the word “mine” for all three women.
* What does Beloved’s monologue describe? What is the “hot thing”? How does this description connect to Sethe? Explain the stylistic elements of Beloved’s monologue and Morrison’s purpose in constructing the chapter this way.
* Why does Paul D’s designation of Beloved as “reminding me of something . . .something, look like, I’m supposed to remember” suggest about her symbolic role in the novel? Consider other places that invoke a symbolic meaning for Beloved, and explore them.
* What is the significance of the water motif in the novel thus far? Trace the motif, and discuss its possible implications.

**Tuesday, April 10th Blog Post #4 is due (pgs. 281-324)**

* Was Stamp Paid telling Paul D about Sethe's past justified?  Why or why not?  What were his intentions?  What does it reveal about Stamp Paid as a character?
* To what extent is it true that Sethe believed Paul D was in the way?  Was it Paul D or Beloved who challenged family life more at 124?
* Why does Morrison choose to incorporate both Sethe and Denver's points of view when they found out who Beloved was?​  What is the significance of Denver and Sethe finally knowing the truth about her identity?
* Why does Beloved still love Sethe?  Is her love pure?  Would Beloved ever hurt Denver?
* Why does Denver have so much resentment toward Sethe?  How is Sethe's role as a mother viewed in a different light by the audience when we find out that Denver is afraid? How has Sethe changed over time as a mother?
* Which perspective of the murder was most accurate?   Include Morrison's details of the different accounts to support your response.
* Was Sethe justified in killing her own child to protect her?  Consider her point of view in the novel.

**Friday, April 13th Blog Post #5 is due (full work)**

Below are essential questions that help reflect on the novel as a whole. In your final blog post, respond to one of these essential questions through referring to characters/their actions/events in the book.

* In what ways does the past influence the present or the future?
* How do people overcome past trauma or are they always plagued by them?
* What does it mean to be human?  What does it mean to be free?
* To what extent should parents have rights over the lives of their children?