***Beloved* Literary Techniques Quick Reference sheet**

* **Nonlinear structure:** Interweaving of past and present in ways that go far beyond conventional use of flashbacks in literature.
* **Biblical allusions** and religious overtones
* **Gothic novel re-imagined**; ghosts and the supernatural
* **Symbols & motifs**
* **Multiple, shifting narrative voices & points of view**
* **Strange sort of collective consciousness or memory**
* **Various rhetorical and literary devices;** alliteration, anaphora, asyndeton, diacope, epistrophe, epizeuxis, metaphor, personification, simile, synecdoche, synesthesia, etc.

**Rhetorical and Literary Devices (AMONG OTHERS!) to watch for.  
DISCLAIMER:** To search for literary and rhetorical devices is not the point, but Morrison strongly believes that language is our only hope for memorializing the victims of slavery. To truly appreciate *Beloved*, then, readers must also appreciate (and recognize!) Morrison’s unparalleled use of the English language.

* Anaphora- the reverse of epistorphe- repetition of words and phrases at the beginning of successive sentences
  + “**It was the** best of times, **it was the** worst of times, **it was the** age of wisdom, **it was the** age of foolishness, **it was the** epoch of belief, **it was the** epoch of incredulity, **it was the** season of Light, **it was the** season of Darkness, **it was the** spring of hope, **it was the** winter of despair.”
* Antimetabole- repetition in reverse order
  + “you like it; it likes you.”
  + “Fair is foul and foul is fair”
* Asyndeton: the stylistic elimination of conjunctions between phrases.
  + “This is the villain among you who deceived you, who cheated you, who meant to betray you completely…”
  + “Consciousness of place came ebbing back to him slowly over a vast tract of time unlit, unfelt, unlived…”
* Diacope: Repetition of a phrase or word, broken up by other intervening words.
  + “To be or not to be…”
  + “You held me down, but I got up”  
    You hear my voice, you hear that sound …  
    You held me down, but I got up  
    Get ready ’cause I’ve had enough  
    I see it all, I see it now”
* Epanalepsis- repeated a word from the beginning of a clause at the end of the same clause.
  + “Common sense is not so common.”
  + “Beloved is mine; she is Beloved.”
* Epistrophe- repetition of words at the end of successive sentences.
  + “Then I’ll be all aroun’ in the dark. I’ll be ever’where – wherever you look. Wherever they’s a fight so hungry people can eat, **I’ll be there**. Wherever they’s a cop beatin’ up a guy, **I’ll be there** … An’ when our folk eat the stuff they raise an’ live in the houses they build – why, **I’ll be there** …”
* Epizeuxis: Repetition of a word or phrase in immediate succession, typically within the same sentence, for vehemence or emphasis.
  + “The horror, the horror!”
  + And thou no breath at all? Thou’lt come no more,  
    **Never, never, never, never!”**
* Alliteration, Metaphor, Personification, Simile, Synecdoche
* Synesthesia:  a technique adopted by writers to present ideas, characters, or places in such a manner that they appeal to more than one sense, like hearing, sight, smell, and touch at a given time.
  + “You look cool.”
  + “Bitter silence”
  + “Warm colors”
  + “With blue, uncertain, stumbling buzz,  
    Between the light and me;”