Toni Morrison - *Beloved*

Test: November 9/10

“…there was a world out there and… I could live in it. Should have known better. . . . Whatever is going on outside my door ain't for me. The world is in this room. This here's all there is and all there needs to be"

Pre-reading study and analysis:

* Biography of Toni Morrison
* Two critical reviews of the novel, printed and annotated
* <http://www.umich.edu/~eng217/student_projects/nobel%20prize%20winners/morrison.htm>

Annotations:

* Like Conrad before, **narrative sequence and technique** are also critical to Morrison’s style. Annotate narrative techniques of Morrison. Draw comparisons to Conrad.
* Annotate characterizations of Sethe, Paul D and the Sweet Home men, etc. Your essay will likely ask you to characterize one or two characters.
* Keep track of the “chapters” and parts. Include a one-sentence summary at the end of each short chapter. You could imagine that the collection of these statements would well summarize and analyze the novel.
* Identify passages of quotes, which are clearly intended to communicate a broad message or thematic significance.
* Post it notes should mark thematic elements, literary comparison, big ideas.
* Use post-its to mark pages with **imagery and figurative language.** These are critical to assessing Morrison’s style. Identify motifs, repetitions, and symbols
* Ask questions. Write questions which come with a reasonable guarantee of an answer “down river,” but use post-its when you develop questions whose answers will lead to major thematic explanations or questions worthy of asking a small group or the entire class or questions which would lead to deep discussion.
* Vocabulary is also now OPTIONAL. I personally make a habit of defining terms when I read, but that’s because I believe that learning might benefit me somewhere and sometime in the future. I realize time is an issue for you….

In your **composition** book open a series of pages which act first as a receptacle for three main items:

1. Summarize the three parts.
2. Look back at your post-its. They should mark the pages of the chapter where you have identified points for critical analysis. While a minimum should never exist, you should choose three to five post its for every section. Once you’ve identified these points, expound. Your analysis should challenge your psychoanalysis of characters, broaden your understanding of symbols, illustrate the effects of Morrison’s style, sew the settings and places to thematic elements, map your insights even if the roads don’t have ends.
3. Engage in a genuine conversation with Morrison and Sethe and Paul D. Provide authentic answers to questions. Record your thoughts and feelings and reactions to the time period. It’s often difficult for many to relate to slavery and racial injustice today. This book discusses a culture, which is very powerful but may be difficult to understand. “Sixty million and more” refers to Africans who died in the Atlantic Slave trade.