

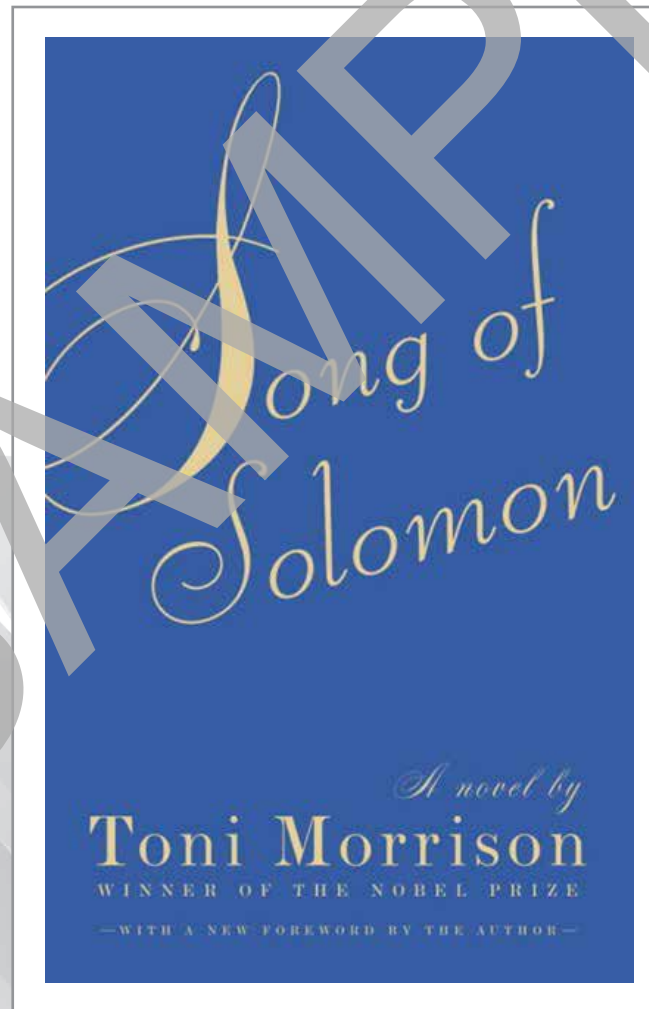


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Song of Solomon

Toni Morrison



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Song of Solomon

Toni Morrison

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Directions: Complete each sentence-starter below. Then choose one and freewrite, without worrying about spelling or punctuation, for ten minutes in a literature response journal. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts with classmates.

Chapters 1-2

- 1. A person's name _____.
- 2. A man's car _____.

Chapters 3-4

- 3. Seeing one parent abuse the other _____.
- 4. When someone gets a "Dear John" letter _____.

Chapter 5

- 5. Being stalked by a former lover _____.
- 6. Bootlegging _____.

Chapters 6-8

- 7. Hate crimes _____.
- 8. Stealing from a relative _____.

Chapter 9

- 9. When a boyfriend and girlfriend are from different social backgrounds _____.
- 10. A brother who interferes in his sister's love life _____.

Chapter 10

- 11. Finding out more about your "roots" _____.
- 12. Seeing where your parents grew up _____.

Chapters 11-12

- 13. When you're a stranger in a small town _____.
- 14. When a friendship goes bad _____.

Chapters 13-14

- 15. A proper burial _____.
- 16. When a person faces death _____.

Name _____

Chapters 11-12, pages 259-304

1. Where did Milkman go in the used car he bought?
2. Why did the men fight with Milkman?
3. What message was left at the store for Milkman?
4. How did Milkman survive Guitar's attempt on his life?
5. Who was Sweet?
6. Name three of the people who told Milkman about his family's past.
7. What song did Milkman memorize—and why?
8. Of what did Guitar accuse Milkman?
- *9. What would you advise your friend Milkman to do about Guitar?
- *10. How will the conflict between Milkman and Guitar end?

Chapters 13-14, pages 305-337

1. How did Hagar die?
2. What did Pilate do at Hagar's funeral?
3. Who knocked out Milkman when he returned home from his trip? Why?
4. Why did Pilate agree to return to Shalimar with Milkman?
5. What did Pilate take with her to Shalimar?
6. Where did Pilate and Milkman go and what did they bury there?
7. How was Pilate mortally wounded?
8. What did Pilate ask Milkman to do as she lay dying?
- *9. Why do you think Milkman leaped?
- *10. What do you think happened after Milkman leaped?

Name _____

Directions: Write an essay on how Milkman changes and grows over the course of the novel.

1. Certain incidents have an important impact on Milkman. As a prewriting activity, fill in the chart below with phrases that describe Milkman before and after certain encounters.

Meeting Pilate		Striking His Father	
Before	After	Before	After

Hagar's Final Attack		Learning Guitar's Secret Identity	
Before	After	Before	After

2. Milkman is affected by his interactions with several strangers. Complete the graphic organizer below by jotting down details in each box about how various strangers influenced Milkman.

Reverend Cooper:	Saul:	Circe:
Calvin, King Walker, Small Boy, Luther, Omar:	Milkman is changed by the strangers he meets.	Susan Byrd/Grace Long:
Singing children:		