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## APPENDIX

### *A. Sula's Synopsys*

Sula is one of Morrison's best-known books and has influenced countless readers worldwide, especially Afro-American women and others who have praised it as a feminist allegory. This novel tells about mother's love, friendship and love that two girls, Nel and Sula, have from their childhood to adulthood. The story also describes the way in which their deep bond of relationship is tested by social norms. The setting of this novel is in the Bottom neighborhood of Medallion, Ohio, which at that time was home to a thriving Afro-American community. It was on top of hills that were mostly white and richer. Nel and Sula in this story explore the relationship between women in the separate South and patriarchy.

The character of Sula in Toni Morrison's *Sula* exemplifies women's independence and a feminist outlook. The suffering of Afro-American people, especially Afro-American women, who experience patriarchal, racial, sexual, and socioeconomic oppression, is illustrated in this work. In the face of poverty and the suspicion, if not downright hostility, of the Afro-American community where she resides, Sula grows into a strong and determined woman. The factors that most strongly influenced Sula's rebellion were from the community, family and even close friends. She broke the patriarchal system and the racial problems in its environment by opposing marriage and having free sex.

In this novel, there are many strong female characters who are described as leaders, mothers and career women. Some of the characters include Sula Peace; the main character is a messy and wild girl with a rose-shaped birthmark, Nel Wright; the second character is a girl from a family that adheres to the social convention system, Hannah Peace; Sula's grandmother, Shadrack; war-torn freak resident of The Bottom, Helene Wright; Nel's mother, Chicken Little; slain boy, Hannah Wright; Sula's mother, Plum Wright; Hannah's brother Jude Greene; Nel's husband, and BoyBoy; Eva's husband or Sula's grandfather.

Sula and Nel had become good friends when they were 12 years old even though they lived from different family backgrounds. Sula has always protected Nel from the intruders in town, and they have a similar loneliness that brings them close. One day, Sula and Nel went to the Ohio River in search of a boy to seduce. While on the river bank, they only found a boy named Chicken Little. Sula challenged Chicken Little to climb a tall tree with her and despite her reluctance, Chicken Little followed the girl anyway. However, when Sula grabbed Chicken Little's hand, the grip slipped and the boy disappeared into the river.

Frightened by what was happening, Sula and Nel ran for help and saw if there were any witnesses to the accident. Sula who saw Shadrack's house which was closest tried to ask if she saw what happened in the river and Shadrack replied that he witnessed the accident. A few days later Chicken Little's body was found in the river and made Sula and Nel feel guilty and afraid of punishment for their actions.

One year later Hannah Peace was burned alive for reasons unknown to anyone. Before the day of her death, Hannah asked about Eva who killed her brother Plum and Eva did not deny her actions on the basis that she could not stand to see someone she loved so much in pain. A few days after Hannah confronted Eva, Eva saw Hannah in her burnt dress standing in front of the house. Eva tried to protect Hannah by pushing the woman through her second-floor window and sending them both to the hospital. Unfortunately though, Hannah didn't survive the previous burn.

As they grew older, Nel married an ambitious Jude Greene who dreamed of working on New River Road. After Nel's marriage, Sula chose to leave and not return to The Bottom for ten years. He went to college and went to big cities in America and had relationships with many men, including those who were white.

After returning to The Bottom, Sula meets Eva whose appearance changes due to the condition of her legs. Sula accuses Eva of cutting off her own leg to get an insurance policy so she has a lot of money. A few weeks later, Sula called officers at a nearby nursing home to take Eva away. At that time Sula enjoyed reuniting with her childhood friends and reminiscing about their past. But everything changes when Sula has an affair with Jude, Nel's husband, and expels Eva from her family. He spent his life in the Medallion and was judged by the people there. Sula also had a brief love affair with Ajax, an older man she had known in childhood. However, Ajax left when Sula showed signs of wanting to commit. Because of this, he was sad and fell sick.

A few years later the disease got worse. Nel, who had not been in touch with Jude or Sula in years, decided to go see an old friend. Nel wants to know what caused Sula to interfere with her marriage and their friendship. But Sula's answer that she was strong and independent and could do whatever she wanted made Nel angry and died. Unfortunately, not long after, Sula died alone in her house.

One year after Sula's death, Shadrack walks the streets, celebrating his annual National Suicide Day. He reminisced about the day Sula ran to his hut. To Shadrack's surprise, dozens of people followed behind him, shouting and cheering for National Suicide Day. The Medallion's people were happy after Sula's death, but they behaved otherwise. In his absence, they leave behind a great anger that makes them sluggish in the roles of mother, and daughter. They walked together to a cliff overlooking the river, where they surveyed the New River Road which was in reality a pile of dirty bricks that would never mean anything. Fed up with the hypocrisy of white businessmen, The Bottom's men threw stones into the street, breaking a cliff and killing dozens of people.

In the last chapter, Nel visits Eva who is still living in a nursing home. Eva asks Nel why he killed Chicken Little and shocks the woman and insists that Sula killed the child. With her accusations, Eva forces Nel to face her unfair assessment of Sula until finally Nel admits to herself that she blamed the boy's death entirely on Sula and put herself in the "good" part of the relationship. Nel realized that after Chicken Little's death, he was too quick to stick to social conventions in an attempt to define himself as

"good." Nel walks outside the nursing home, where she sees the Peace family grave that Sula has inside. Nel realizes that she has missed Sula all along and cries for her old friend.

The factors that had the greatest influence on Sula's rebellion were from the community, family and friendship. She broke the patriarchal culture of social conventions and racist problems between skin color groups in her society by refusing marriage and having free sexual partners so that she was called evil and hated by the people of The Bottom.

## **B. Toni Morrison's short Biography**

Toni Morrison is one of the most celebrated authors in the world. In addition to writing plays, and children's books, her novels have earned her countless prestigious awards including the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. As the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Morrison's work has inspired a generation of writers to follow in her footsteps.

Toni Morrison was born on February 18, 1931 in Lorain, Ohio. The second of four children, Morrison's birth name was Chloe Anthony Wofford. Although she grew up in a semi-integrated area, racial discrimination was a constant threat. When Morrison was two years old, the owner of her family's apartment building set their home on fire while they were inside because they were unable to afford the rent. Morrison turned her attention to her studies and became an avid reader. She was able to use her intellect on the debate team, her school's yearbook staff, and eventually as a

secretary for the head librarian at the Lorain Public Library. When she was twelve years old, she converted to Catholicism and was baptized under the name Anthony after Saint Anthony of Padua. She later went by the nickname “Toni” after this saint.

In 1949, Morrison decided to attend a historically black institution for her college education. She moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University. While in college, Morrison experienced racial segregation in a new way. She joined the university’s theatrical group called the Howard University Players, and frequently toured the segregated south with the play. In addition, she witnessed how racial hierarchy divided people of color based on their skin tone. However, the community at Howard University also allowed her to make connections with other writers, artists, and activists that influenced her work. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in English, Morrison attended Cornell University to earn the Master of Arts in English. When she graduated in 1955, she began teaching English at Texas Southern University but returned to Howard University as a professor. While back at the university, Morrison taught the young civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael, and met her husband Harold Morrison. The couple had two children, Harold and Slade.

After teaching at Howard University for seven years, Morrison moved to Syracuse, New York to become an editor for the textbook division of Random House publishing. Within two years, she transferred to the New York City branch of the company and began to edit fiction and books by African-American authors. Although she worked for a publishing company,



Morrison did not publish her first novel called *The Bluest Eye* until she was 39 years old. Three years later, Morrison published her second novel called *Sula*, that was nominated for the National Book Award. By her third novel in 1977, Toni Morrison became a household name. *Song of Solomon* earned critical acclaim as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award. The success of her books encouraged Morrison to become a writer full time. She left publishing and continued to write novels, essays, and plays. In 1987, Morrison released her novel called *Beloved*, based on the true story of an African-American enslaved woman. This book was a Bestseller for 25 weeks and won countless awards including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In 1993, Morrison became the first Black woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Three years later, she was also chosen by the National Endowment for the Humanities to give the Jefferson Lecture, and was honored with the National Book Foundation's Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

Morrison's work continued to influence writers and artists through her focus on African American life and her commentary on race relations. In 1998, Oprah Winfrey co-produced and starred in the film adaptation of Morrison's book, *Beloved*. The film also starred major Hollywood actors including Danny Glover, Thandie Newton, and Kimberly Elise. Following this, Morrison's books were featured four times as selections for Oprah's Book Club. While writing and producing, Morrison was also a professor in the Creative Writing Program at Princeton University. Her work earned her an honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Oxford, and the

opportunity to be a guest curator at the Louvre museum in Paris. In 2000, she was named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress. Morrison also wrote children's books with her son until his death at 45 years old. Two years later, Morrison published the last book they were working on together and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in that same month. In June of 2019, director Timothy Greenfield-Sanders released a documentary of her life called *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*. Morrison passed away two months later from complications of pneumonia.