

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Toni Morrison

Today we're going to talk about Toni Morrison...in just a minute.

Toni Morrison was born Chloe Wofford in 1931 in Lorain, Ohio. She is considered one of the greatest American authors of all time.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master's from Cornell, Morrison taught literature and worked at a textbook publishing company. Later she became the first Black female editor at Random House, where she edited works by \_\_\_\_\_ Black Americans like Angela Davis, Toni Cade Bambara, Gayl Jones, Huey P. Newton, and Muhammad Ali.

It wasn't until she was 39 years old that her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was published. She went on to write 10 more novels, including *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, and *Beloved*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Morrison's writing centered Black lives and experiences, which had often been minimized in Western literature. She explored questions that define the human experience: Are good and evil truly opposites? Do race, class, and gender determine where we end up in life? And how do the past and present \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives and society as a whole?

In 1993, Morrison won the Nobel Prize in Literature, and in 2012, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. But she also endured a lot of \_\_\_\_\_, and her books have been \_\_\_\_\_ in some schools and libraries for their \_\_\_\_\_ depictions of violence and sexuality. Throughout her life, Morrison fought against \_\_\_\_\_, believing it erased valuable perspectives.

How do you think Toni Morrison has influenced other writers?