

The African American Novel  
*Beloved* and Outside Reading Book  
AP Literature and Composition &  
Early College Experience  
Mr. Olio

***Beloved:***

For each of the five (5) readings of *Beloved*, read and then write a QPA focusing on:

Characterization techniques, which include:

- physical description
- setting/physical environment
- narration/point of view
- narrative time
- sentence structure
- motif
- naming
- dialogue/interior monologue
- plot action/incident
- cultural and historical allusions

For each paragraph, you should avoid focusing on more than one of these so find your center—find a focus. Authors will employ most of these techniques—and we have the opportunity to experience Morrison’s art, so let the text be your guide. Pay careful attention to her craft. In doing so, I think we can gain a greater appreciation for Morrison as a writer and historical narrative. Also, work to hone your sentence writing, which includes varying sentence structures, using active verbs/avoiding passive voice, and reducing wordiness.

***Independent Reading Novel:***

*Invisible Man*  
*Native Son*  
*Sula*  
*Song of Solomon*  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

For each of the (four) sections in your independent reading book, write a short paper (**two page** maximum) on the book's unique characterization techniques, making connections (compare and contrast) to *Beloved*. We will continue with our small group discussions to help deepen our thinking about the African American novel—and African American experience.

Here are some sentence examples to help you work with the key words you choose when addressing the characterization techniques:

⇒ The author's use of the \_\_\_\_\_ technique to characterize \_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ reveals her interest in \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ The \_\_\_\_\_ technique rests on the word/s \_\_\_\_\_, which produce/s a \_\_\_\_\_ tone.

⇒ The word's' power (strength, force, energy) comes from \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ This word suggests (implies, evokes, alludes to, hints at, elicits, imparts, indicates, echoes) \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ The author's use of the \_\_\_\_\_ technique strengths (deepens, underscores, perpetuates, shifts, changes, contradicts) the \_\_\_\_\_ mood/concept/idea.

Note: these are in no special order; moreover, one could combine/refine words, concepts and phrases.