

BLSYW Upper School English III Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to English III: American Literature! I'm so excited to work with you, and this summer reading assignment will help you prepare for some of the themes we'll discuss throughout the coming school year.

This summer, 11th graders in English III are required to read ***Sula* by Toni Morrison** and complete the assignments listed below and outlined in this packet. All assignments must be typed and turned in by **August 24, 2026 via Google Classroom**.

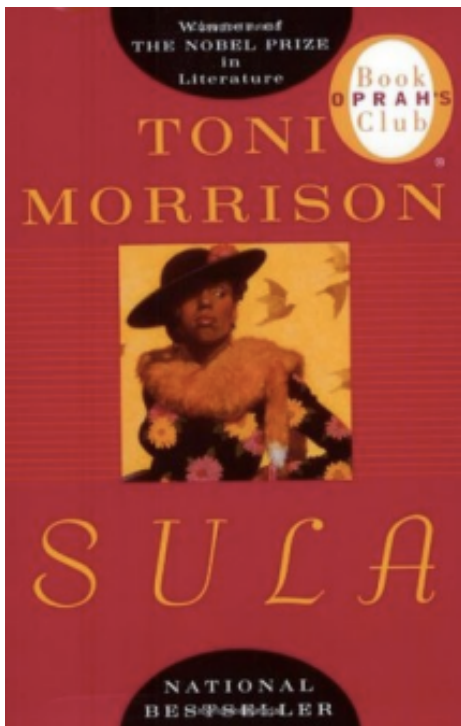
Sula is available at all major bookstores and [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). **I also have a free electronic PDF copy of the book that you could read on your phone or tablet. Email me if you want it.** It's also available for checkout at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Baltimore County Library. The E-book and audiobook are also available on Amazon, iBooks, iTunes, and **they're also available online for free with any Maryland library card** at <http://maryland.lib.overdrive.com/>. If you have difficulty reading this text independently, I suggest checking out or purchasing the **audiobook** version of the text to listen to as you follow along in your text. This will help you improve your reading fluency. For further help or guidance, please feel free to contact me, Ms. Champion, your English III Teacher: cchampion@blsyw.org

Assignment Checklist

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.10 By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	Read: <i>Sula</i> by Toni Morrison	
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.	Type responses to the comprehension questions. 50 Points	
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.	Type an expository essay about the text. 50 Points	

Required Summer Reading

***Sula* by Toni Morrison**



REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:

- ☐ Read the entire novel from cover to cover.
- ☐ Complete the comprehension questions for each chapter (PRO Tip: Answer the questions as you're reading).
- ☐ Write an expository essay.

Plot Summary

This rich and moving novel traces the lives of two black heroines from their close-knit childhood in a small Ohio town, through their sharply divergent paths of womanhood, to their ultimate confrontation and reconciliation.

Nel Wright has chosen to stay in the place where she was born, to marry, raise a family, and become a pillar of the black community. Sula Peace has rejected the life Nel has embraced, escaping to college, and submerging herself in city life. When she returns to her roots, it is as a rebel and a wanton seductress. Eventually, both women must face the consequences of their choices. Together, they create an unforgettable portrait of what it means and costs to be a black woman in America.

Reading Comprehension Questions for *Sula* by Toni Morrison

Directions: Type responses to the following questions in complete sentences. ***After each answer, write the page number from the novel where you found the answer.***

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Part One - Untitled

1921

1. How is the town of Medallion described?
2. How is the Bottom described? How is the Bottom different from the rest of Medallion?
3. Explain the story of the slave and his master and the land of the Bottom.

1. Describe Sula's home.
2. Describe Sula's grandmother, Eva.
3. What happened to Eva after 5 years of marriage?
4. Why does Eva leave her children? How is she changed when she returns to them?
5. Who else lives with Sula and Eva?

1919

1. What is National Suicide Day and who celebrates it?
2. How is Shadrack's character described?
3. How long has Shadrack been in the hospital? Why is he released?
4. What is the new "struggle" that Shadrack has?
5. What seem to be the details and purpose of Suicide Day?
6. How has the reaction of the town changed over time? Why do you think the town has changed in this way?

6. How is Sula's mother Hannah described?
7. What happens to Eva's son Plum when he comes back from war?
8. Why is Eva frustrated with Plum? What does she do to him as a result of her frustration? What is your reaction to her action?

1922

1. Describe Nel and Sula's new friendship.
2. What roles does Sula seem to have in the friendship?
3. How do Sula and Nel regard the men in town?
4. What happens to Chicken Little, a young neighborhood boy? What is your reaction to this?
5. How do Sula and Nel react to what happened to Chicken Little? What do you think of their reaction?

1920

1. Why does Helene's grandmother want her to stay away from the Sundown House?
2. Where does Helene move to? Describe her life there.
3. Why does Helene travel back home?
4. Why is the train trip stressful for Helene and her daughter, Nel?
5. What do Helene and Nel discover after their journey?
6. Who does Nel meet, and what does she think of

1923

1. What does Hannah ask her mother, Eva?
2. What does Eva see happen to Hannah? How does

Eva react?

3. What later happens to Hannah? What is your reaction to this?

4. Why is Eva suspicious of Sula?

1927

1. Why does Jude marry Nel?

2. What is Nel's friendship with Sula like at this point in the novel?

3. What does Sula do to Nel at the end of the chapter? What is your opinion of her action?

1937

1. How is Sula described when she returns to Medallion?

2. Why is Eva upset with Sula?

3. What does Sula do to Eva?

4. How does Nel decide to help Sula?

5. What does Nel catch Sula doing? What is your reaction to this?

6. What happens to Nel's marriage with Jude?

7. How does Nel feel at the end of the chapter?

1939

1. What sort of rumors are circulating about Sula?

2. How are things changing in the Bottom? 3.

What do people in town think of Sula? 4. How is

Sula different from other people in town? 5. What

sort of trouble is Sula having at home? 6. Describe

Sula's relationship with Ajax.

1940

1. What Nel decide to do for the first time in 3 years? 2. What is Sula like now?

3. Describe the conversation between Nel and

Sula. 4. What does Nel realize after speaking with Sula?

1941

1. Describe Sula's funeral.

2. How does life in the bottom change after Sula's death?

3. Describe the ice storm and its effects on people in the Bottom.

4. What does Shadrack recall about Sula?

5. What tradition does Shadrack continue?

6. What happens to Tar Baby, the Deweys, and others as Shadrack rings the bell?

1965

1. What changes does Nel see in the town? How does she feel about them?

2. Who does Nel visit?

3. What does Eva accuse Nel of?

4. What does Nel realize about her feelings regarding Chicken Litte?

5. What does Nel realize about Eva?

6. What does Nel realize about her feelings regarding Sula and Jude?

Expository Essay Assignment

An expository essay is an essay that explains a topic to inform a reader. For this assignment, type a 5-paragraph expository essay that responds to the following prompt:

What do the characters and their lives illustrate about the identity and choices of African American women? Explain what you think *Sula* communicates about the experiences of African American women in the United States.

Your essay must meet the following guidelines:

- Must be 5 paragraphs long with the following structure:
 - Introduction
 - 3 Body paragraphs
 - Conclusion
- Must introduce, cite, and explain at least three quotes from the text.
- Each paragraph must be 6-8 sentences in length.
- Must be typed and double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman Font
- Must be proofread and edited so that it has few or no errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:

BLSYW defines cheating generally in accordance with Board of Education policy, which says that "Cheating by students...is attempting to take credit for someone else's work, using unauthorized materials, or otherwise acting to deceive the evaluator in an assignment, project, or test."

BLSYW Defines Intentional Plagiarism as, but not limited to:

- Obvious, substantial, verbatim reproduction of information
- Fabrication of sources, falsification of page numbers, or other deliberate misdocumentation
- Submission of others' work or AI-generated text as the students' own. This applies to uncited paraphrasing of another's ideas as well as verbatim use of others' words. (Others' may refer to either scholarly sources, online "cribbed" essays, generative AI, or the work of other students).

Academic Consequences

Evidence of intentional plagiarism shall result in the student's receiving a grade of zero for the assignment in which the plagiarism occurs. Adherence to departmental grading rubrics shall be negated by evidence of plagiarism. **Students will also be subject to a disciplinary consequence outlined by the behavioral continuum.**

Your essay will be uploaded to Google Classroom and checked for plagiarism. Do original work and you'll be fine.