

TONI MORRISON



ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSTION



ORIGINS

- ❖ Born Chloe Anthony Wofford on February 18, 1931 in Lorain, Ohio.
- ❖ Parents: George Wofford and Ramah Willis Wofford; relocated to Ohio to escape racism and find better opportunities.
- ❖ Dealings with integration.

TEENAGE DREAMS

- ❖ Aspired to become a dancer like Maria Tallchief.
- ❖ Loved to read; Leo Tolstoy and Jane Austen were among her favorites.
- ❖ Graduated with honors from Lorain High School in 1949.

YOUNG ADULTHOOD

- ◆ Howard University
 - ◆ English major; classical literature minor
 - ◆ Howard University Players
- ◆ Cornell University
- ◆ Texas Southern University
 - ◆ Introductory English instructor
 - ◆ Harold Morrison



BEGINNING OF LITERARY CAREER

- ❖ Writers' Group meetings
- ❖ Associate editorship at Random House Publishing
- ❖ Senior editorship at Random House
 - ❖ Edited works by Muhammad Ali & Angela Davis
- ❖ The Bluest Eye
- ❖ Sula

LITERARY CAREER CONTINUED

❖ Dreaming Emmett

❖ Song of Solomon

❖ Beloved

❖ Jazz



LITERARY MOVEMENT

◆ The Black Aesthetic (Art) Movement

- ◆ Writers often associated with members of the Black Power movement who grew frustrated with the pace of changes enacted by the civil rights movement of the 1950s & 1960s
- ◆ Works tend to be:
 - ◆ Politically charged
 - ◆ Aggressive when it comes to responding to black oppression
 - ◆ A challenge to "white establishment"
 - ◆ Concerned with "black consciousness"

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHILE READING

❖ Racism and stereotyping

❖ Identity

