The Black Body and American Wounds

Cinnamon Vivian Nolley
The College at Brockport, cnolley@brockport.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/research_posters

Recommended Citation
Nolley, Cinnamon Vivian, "The Black Body and American Wounds" (2019). Posters@Research Events. 34.
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/research_posters/34

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters@Research Events by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact ccowling@brockport.edu, digitalcommons@brockport.edu.
**Introduction**

My research of the novel Beloved registers in two ways. I have explored how Toni Morrison crafts the bodies of her characters as a space that physically maps out the historical impact of slavery on America. I examined how she used keloids, scars, or lack thereof to create a chorus of the voiceless trauma dedicated to exposing the extreme crime against humanity that slavery in America was, and the lasting impact it has. I have also analyzed the ambiguous spaces that Morrison uses to expose how slavery’s effects are not isolated within the black population, but how they extend to all Americans who share in this collective bodily wound.

**Method**

My methodology was an interpretative approach largely using qualitative measures which consist of a close examination of materials that highlight the social and historical impact of American slavery. I have presented a holistic understanding of the effects of slavery on America through analysis of Beloved, one of the most prolific neo-slavery narratives. I specifically focused on how Morison molds the bodies of her characters to expose the chronic injury that slavery inflicted on American society. In support of my interpretation, I searched for the meaningful impact of slavery within correlating scholarly journals that investigate or are in conversation with Morrison's work.

**Character Analysis**

“Anything dead coming back to life hurts”

**Research Questions**

How does Toni Morrison use the bodies of her characters to express the unspeakable horror of slavery? How does Morrison create a holistic view of the collective wound that slavery left on America?

**References**


Duerr Humann, Heather. Bigotry, Breast Milk, Bric-a-Brac, a Baby, and a Bit in “Beloved”: Toni Morrison’s Portrayal of Racism and Hegemony, Penn State University Press

Interdisciplinary Literary Studies, Vol. 6, No. 1 (Fall 2004), pp. 68-78


**Toni Morrison’s Beloved**

**The Black Body and American Wounds**

Cinnamon Vivian Nolley

*The College at Brockport*

Mentor: Tait, Althea, PHD