

# Sexual Abuse in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and The Me Too Movement

## The Me Too Movement

The me too movement focuses on bringing an end to sexual sexual violence and showing that those who have experienced it are not alone. It also involves public allegations against prominent men in society. Over time, it grew to include both women and men of all races and backgrounds coming forward to stand together.



## Work Cited

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*.  
Random House, Inc.  
2004.

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## Connection

The Me Too Movement connects to the countless examples of sexual abuse and trauma throughout *Beloved* because not only does it bring to light the horrible experiences that slaves had to endure, but it also highlights the lack of discussion and knowledge when it comes to this part of history. *Beloved* brings those instances into view for the audience, not allowing it to be hidden or glossed over. Both men and women suffered from sexual abuse while in slavery, and the Me Too Movement shows that every experiences matters and counts. Although it was in the past, it still matters, and we still stand together.

## Accounts of Sexual Abuse in *Beloved*

"I am full God damn it of two boys with mossy teeth, one sucking on my breast the other holding me down, their book-reading teacher watching and writing it up. I am still full of that, God damn it, I can't go back and add more. Add my husband to it, watching, above me in the loft—hiding close by—the one place he thought no one would look for him, looking down on what I couldn't look at at all."

"Occasionally a kneeling man chose gunshot in his head as the price, maybe, of taking a bit of foreskin with him to Jesus. Paul D did not know that then. He was looking at his palsied hands, smelling the guard. . . as he stood before the man kneeling on his right."

"Her puberty was spent in a house where she was shared by father and son, whom she called 'the lowest yet.'"

## Further Readings

"Figurations of Rape and the Supernatural in *Beloved*" by  
Pamela E. Barnett