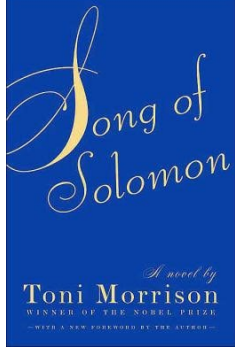




Discussion Guide



About the Book:

Author: Song of Solomon

Vintage, 2004 (reprint), original 1977

Websites: <https://www.tonimorrisonociety.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialToniMorrisonAuthor>

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. One of the significant themes in this book is flying. Who talked about flying and who actually tried to fly? What was the significance of flight for Milkman? For Solomon? For the Insurance agent? In general what are the stories of flight about? Do you dream of flying?
3. The author contrasts the wealthy African-Americans such as the doctor and Macon Dead to the others in the community. How did they relate with each other? What was the view of the wealthy African Americans to the others? How did the others view the wealthy?
4. Talk about how the author deals with the issue of lynching in this book. How does it affect the lives of the characters? What is the response of the Days group and what did you make of that?
5. Toni Morrison won awards for this book. What do you think makes this book so compelling and award-worthy?
6. This book was primarily Milkman's story. What were the issues of his life that he struggled with and how did he finally resolve them?
7. Where did you see romantic love in the book? How were marriages characterized?
7. What was the gold treasure about? How did it impact the characters? Do you think it was ever found and if so, by whom?
8. What was the Song of Solomon? Who sang it? Whose story did it tell? Why the book named after this song?
9. What was the relationship between Guitar and Milkman like?
10. What statements would you say this book makes about the Black community? The white community? The north? The south?
11. What do the MAMs have to say about the book? Whom do you agree with?

Listen on YouTube:

Toni Morrison: Song of Solomon (6:06), Toni Morrison Nobel Lecture (1993) (33:18)

White People Have a Very Very Serious Problem - Toni Morrison on Charlie Rose (3:25)

Toni Morrison interview (6:13)



NANCY: What a storyteller, Toni Morrison. Revisiting her work again as Ohio prepares to celebrate her writing life gives me pause. Morrison states she writes for a Black audience. As a white reader, it gives me a window into Black culture. I read it as a statement of what racism does, of resiliency, but also of brokenness and anger. Today, as so many try to deny and silence the truth of racism, a book like this clamors to be heard. I stand in awe of her character development, theme development and literary brilliance.



ABIGAIL: It's been years since I read this for the first time. Good to revisit it again. It took me on a journey into the Black community, looking at the ways racism affects people. When those men formed a group to avenge the senseless killings of Blacks by doing eye-for-eye random white killings it put everything in perspective.



SALLIE: Those kids losing their parents That's hard on kids, on any kid. I thought the author did an awesome job writing the feelings and confusion they go through. It formed their characters in ways they didn't fully understand, but as a reader I could hear their pain. Not a happy story by any means.



PRISCILLA: If these folks would've just got to church more often, I think they would've gotten the spiritual resources they needed to deal with their lives. Sure, rough things happen, but God is always there. Why didn't the author have God pull them through? I'm not always into the literary genre.



JANE: Liked Pilate! What a woman! Running booze underground She would help someone out when you didn't expect it, or beat someone up, even ready to kill someone in her own family if they went against her sense of love and right and wrong.



MOLLY: You know Morrison writes for the Black reader, so you may not quite understand, but I do. This is a very deep book, looking at the havoc developed by racism and its fall out. It's not the same for all African Americans, but many live in this sort of marginalized existence, trying to find their way after being damaged and spit out by the white people.



KATHARINE: Great example of Black literature for English lit classes. Also, so good to read Morrison as Ohio gets ready to celebrate her life work early next year. Toni Morrison was not only an author, but accomplished professor and editor, working at Random House and Ivy league schools. She's a voice who should be heard widely, and she has been.