### Summary
According to the committee that awarded her the Nobel Prize in 1993, Toni Morrison “gives life to an essential aspect of American reality.” *Beloved*, which is dedicated to the “Sixty Million and More” African Americans who suffered under slavery, does just that. The novel focuses on the life of Sethe and her family, and through her story the novel explores the psychological trauma of slavery and the importance of memory and identity.

### Directions
Please annotate your text and take brief notes to help you answer the following questions:

1. How does the novel benefit from its complex narrative structure (specifically flashbacks)?
2. What is “magic realism,” and how is this technique important to the novel?
3. What does the novel convey about the importance of memories and the past?

### Purpose
The purpose of summer reading is threefold: 1) to give you a memorable reading experience over the summer, 2) to provide a context for your first writing sample of the year, and 3) to lead in to our discussion of American Literature.
Honor Code
All students are reminded of our Honor Code, and are responsible for reading the works assigned without consulting commercial notes (such as Cliff's), internet guides and summaries, or any source other than the work required or chosen. Students are not to use abridgements.