

# *Beloved Symbolism Sketches*

## **Add an entry to your journal ...**

Please add “Beloved Sketches” to your physical journal’s Table of Contents (same as you did for the “Watchmen Sketches”), and title the next available page with that same name.

## **Find a few good symbols ...**

Many works of literature include symbols (real things which carry more than literal meaning). Those specific symbols always represent something important to truly experiencing that work of literature. I’m asking you to select **several** significant symbols from Beloved. Consider literal things (e.g. objects, actions, pairs, parts) that Morrison seems to emphasize through repetition or placement in the work. Also consider how these repeated symbols might change throughout the course of the novel. (Due dates will be posted on the schedule board in class and online.)

## **For each symbol ...**

- Allow a FULL PAGE for (and number) each entry.
- SKETCH the symbol as it is described in the text.
- CITE the symbol’s location (page number).
- Provide a fitting NAME for the symbol.
- Briefly explain the CONTEXT in which the symbol appears.
- RESPOND to the symbol in about a paragraph.

Remember that literature rarely offers simple answers to simple questions. Trust yourself to become comfortable with ambiguity and even contradiction; this is the path to get the most out of any literary text. Instead, it’s okay to ask questions instead of providing one-and-done answers about a symbol’s significance. Any good symbol has at least two equally valid external meanings. (Trust your own interpretations, not an AI’s.)