

Beloved Annotation Guide: Consistencies, Contrasts, & Ambiguities

Consistencies (Parallels)

These choices provide unity and continuity, reinforcing the interconnectedness of characters, events, and — most importantly — ideas. Marks these elements with a "//" in the margin to indicate some parallelism.

- **MR, Magical Realism** — the supernatural seamlessly integrating into the characters' reality, creating a consistent narrative logic
- **SY, Symbolism** — objects, marks, actions, and choices that have multiple possible interpretations, thus linking seemingly disparate elements
- **AL, Allusions** — keep an eye out for references to sacrifice, exodus, and rebirth that connect characters' struggles to universal stories from myth, the Bible, or folklore
- **RM, Rememory** — when the past and present intertwine, creating a continuous thread of trauma and memory throughout the novel

Contrasts (Tension)

These choices provoke tension by disrupting coherence, highlighting contradictions, and inviting critical reflection. Mark these sticking points with a "X" in the margin to indicate the perpendicularity of such contrasts.

- **FN, Fragmented Narrative** — disjointed timeline and non-linear storytelling disrupt traditional narrative flow, mirroring psychological state of characters
- **PS, Perspective Shifts** — multiplicity of voices resists a singular interpretation, emphasizing subjectivity and conflicting truths
- **ET, Effects of Trauma** — look for a juxtaposition of the psychological effects of trauma (both resilient survival as well as profound emotional damage) in the lives of those who've survived slavery
- **IR, Ironies** — the contrast between expectation and reality can expose the contradictions within societal norms and individual actions

Ambiguities (?)

Sometimes Morrison's choices blur boundaries between cohesion and contrast, leaving space for multiple interpretations and unresolved tensions, forcing readers to grapple with uncertainty and complexity. When such postmodern effects become evident, mark them with a "?" in the margin.