



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

BOOK REVIEW



Step 1 - Name of the book

Step 2- Name of the author

Step 3- Characters of the novel/story.

Step 4- Summarize the story

Step 5- Criticism of the story.

Step 6- Rating (* * * * *)

Example:

"Beloved" is a novel written by Toni Morrison, first published in 1987. The book is a powerful exploration of the impact of slavery on individuals and communities, combining historical fiction with elements of magical realism. Here's a brief review:

Plot Summary: The novel is set in post-Civil War Ohio and follows the life of Sethe, an escaped slave who is haunted by her past. The story unfolds as Sethe lives with her daughter Denver in a house haunted by the ghost of her deceased child, whom she named Beloved. The arrival of a mysterious young woman who calls herself Beloved has profound and unsettling effects on Sethe and those around her.

Themes:

- **Slavery and Its Legacy:** The novel delves into the horrors of slavery and its enduring impact on both individuals and the African American community.
- **Motherhood:** Morrison explores the theme of motherhood, particularly the sacrifices and challenges faced by Sethe as she tries to protect her children from the dehumanizing effects of slavery.
- **Memory and Trauma:** The narrative is intricately woven with themes of memory, trauma, and the psychological scars left by the experiences of slavery. The characters grapple with their haunted pasts and the effects of a history that refuses to be forgotten.

Style and Writing: Toni Morrison's writing style is rich and evocative, with a unique blend of realism and symbolism. The use of multiple perspectives and non-linear storytelling enhances the depth of the narrative. Morrison's prose is both poetic and visceral, capturing the emotional intensity of the characters and the historical weight of their experiences.

Characters: The characters in "Beloved" are complex and deeply human, each grappling with their own struggles and haunted by their pasts. Sethe's journey is particularly poignant, and the characters surrounding her contribute to the novel's emotional depth.

Impact and Recognition: "Beloved" won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988 and was later awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for Toni Morrison's outstanding body of work. The novel is considered a classic of American literature and is frequently studied in literature courses for its thematic depth and literary craftsmanship.

Critique: Some readers may find the novel challenging due to its non-linear narrative and the heavy thematic focus on trauma. The use of magical realism might be a barrier for those who prefer more straightforward storytelling.

In conclusion, "Beloved" is a profound and thought-provoking novel that tackles the harsh realities of slavery while exploring themes of identity, trauma, and the enduring power of love. It is a challenging but rewarding read, offering a unique perspective on American history and the human spirit.