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## Cluster Of Traumatic Experiences Of Pecola In Toni Morrison's 'The Bluest Eye'

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African American literature is as interesting as any other literature of the time. It is a literature written by African Americans about African Americans in America. It tends to focus on themes and issues like African American culture, racism, religion, slavery, freedom, and equality.

Toni Morrison's famous works such as 'The Bluest Eye', 1970, Sula 1974, Song of Solomon 1977, Tar Baby, 1981, Beloved 1987, Jazz 1992, Paradise 1998, Love 2003, A Mercy 2008.

This is the story of an eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, the tragic heroine of Toni Morrison's haunting first novel. It grew out of her memory of a girlhood friend who had a big craze for beautiful blue eyes. The Breedloves were ugly and dark. Pecola often looked at her in the mirror, wondering at her ugliness. She focused on her eyes as her ugliest feature and wished to have beautiful blue eyes. This brought agony, depression, and an inferiority complex to her. So, she prayed for a year, but in vain. Even then, she had hopes that one day she would get blue eyes. Pecola acquired an imaginary friend with whom she engaged in a delightful conversation about her beautiful blue eyes, the envy of everyone.

Pecola was a little black girl, plain and homely. She is not happy with herself and longs for blue eyes, as they are symbolic of American white beauty. She had a very difficult life growing up, as people tormented her for being black and ugly. Pecola learns from the adults around her and the media of movies and advertisements that only the European American girls are pretty and that the prettiest girls have blonde hair and blue eyes.

The primary antagonist of the novel is embodied as a person, but is an idea or a way of thinking. It is internalized racism, a kind of thinking that happens in their inferiority. The African-American community of Lorain, Ohio, suffers from internalized racism. The children are its most vulnerable targets. The climax is connected to the main plot around internalized racism as it is shown to be both a result of racial conditioning—the phenomenon of being taught from childhood up that one is inferior and lowly—and a literalization of the symbolic rape of children.

Once, Pecola goes to a spiritualist to ask for blue eyes. The spiritualist leads her to believe that she will gain her wish. Pecola becomes insane. She manifests her insanity in her belief that she has ‘The Bluest Eye’ of anyone on earth. She also gains an imaginary friend who affirms the beauty of her blue eyes.

Toni Morrison’s portrayal of vulgar sexual abuse in this novel is with a strong intent and purpose. Such vulgar sexual scenes are depicted to bring to light the damaging effects of society on its most vulnerable members. She speaks about the destruction of an innocent black girl’s life. Pecola, the black girl, becomes the voice of the suffering individuals who did not have the guts to speak out about the injustice that happened to them. She reveals that societal abuse of the African American race as a whole has grave effects on the development of specific individuals. She depicts Pecola’s sexual experiences graphically to grasp the attention of the readers who would intend to reform the society, so that little innocent children will not be sexually abused. She intends to bring change to society. Thereby, Toni Morrison has demonstrated the repercussion of rejecting a population of people through explicit description of sexual abuse.

Women are sexually abused by men in African American society. This is an intolerable flaw of the society. The ultimate atrocity is that they persecute weaker individuals weaker than themselves, namely, children. The turmoil that African American males experience in society imposes an inferiority complex in their psyche that in turn shows it to their inferiors.

The negative stereotypes and images about women naturally create an oppressive attitude. The people, history, media, everything tries to oppress images, which results in inferiority and oppression. The racial discrimination that prevails between the two races American and African American inculcates self-hatred and a lack of confidence among the African American women. This in turn empowered the already existing strength of the white population. As a result, women’s self-conception is degraded. Such things made them more susceptible as targets of the white population and also African American men.

Absence of love is the prime cause and result of sexual abuse of women and girls in African American society. The lack of love itself is a form of oppression. When Pecola was born, she was looked at as a ball of black, and so she was not given importance neither in the family nor in society. This kind of treatment caused her to have a negative impact on her mind. Many incidents in the novel provide ample evidence that

everything that is bad is due to a lack of love within the black community and that damage was fuelled through each generation.

The racial self-loathing attitude prevails in the minds of the ugly and dark girl Pecola right from her childhood days. Eventually it becomes an infectious insecurity that devastates the individual who endures it. The self-hatredness of these females could be seen reflecting in their actions. This kind of internal racism is another cause of sexual abuse.

Pecola's perception of beauty is that with white skin, blonde hair and blue eyes. In fact, she has understood that because of her lack of beauty she was treated poorly by everyone. Had she been beautiful with a pretty face and blue eyes, everyone would have adored her. Her beauty would have prevented her from the atrocious behavior of her father and the careless treatment of her mother. Ultimately, Pecola was led to believe that because she was dark and unattractive, she deserved to be ill-treated and abused.

The society in which the African Americans lived was too harsh, and that prevented them from nurturing and developing into emotionally healthy individuals. The whites degraded the black existence, which is always there. But the black race internally damaged its own members through repeated family abuses. The narrator of this novel represented the average black experience. The Breedloves demonstrated the extreme effect that demonization of a race could have on a fragile member of society, a female child. The sexual aggression that victimized her, and that she merely accepted because of her negative self-image caused her to fall apart ultimately, prompted mental imbalance.

The society in which they belong hardened the hearts of African American men. Due to it, they frequently found children sexually irresistible. The men in the novel were emotionally battered and exhausted by the cruelty they experienced. Little children are too fresh and innocent to tolerate the atrocities in society. The hard-hearted men were attracted to their innocence and took advantages of them. These men felt saturated with emotional filth and were drawn to what they lacked, cleanliness. Cholly, Soaphead and Henry were all attracted to the tenderness of such female children and the ability they had to submit their purity to the most masculine act of aggression, sex.

Youth were clean and beautiful; not soiled by the cruelty of the world. Therefore, Morrison contests that the sexual abuse of children can be attributed to the societal abuse that African American men endure.

The white oppression upon the black male population is the ultimate cause of black female children. Her overall message is not the cruelty of black men but rather the dangerous result of racial persecution. She accuses society as the greatest enemy and not the villains, blackmen. Her message through this novel is to arouse social reconstruction. The sexually graphic nature of the novel, when observed superficially, may be obscene to read, but people need to be clever enough to delve deeper and comprehend the pain and suffering behind it, which is the result of societal constructs. Thereby, Morrison brilliantly illustrates the repercussions of racial prejudices

and the impact they have on the most vulnerable members of society. The novel is an inspiration for social revolution and continues on to instigate reform. She demonstrated a cycle of oppression that manifested itself from the dominant group and ultimately affected the weakest individuals.

When oppression, racism, and abuse are permitted the horrid destruction of society occurs. The devastation of suppression triggered self-contempt within the oppressed population that eventually allowed for future abuse. Sexual violence to female children was an outcome of societal abuse of African American males. By incorporating such sexually graphic depictions, Morrison leaves a lasting impression and more effectively conveys her message in order to incite reform.

