- 1.
- 2. 124 is the house that Denver and Sethe live in but the number 3 is missing because Beloved, the third child, is dead. There are no memories of Beloved and conversations regarding her character are absent.
- 3. The soul of Beloved haunts the house, moving the sideboard, pitching the house, and throwing the dog across the room.
- 4. Baby Suggs dies while she was experiencing depression on the effects of slavery and the loss of all eight of her children.
- 5. Not knowing how to read or what was meant to go on the headstone, Sethe chooses "Dearly Beloved" to be engraved because it was the first two words that she heard the preacher say at the funeral.
- 6. Sethe settled for only "Beloved" to be engraved because the cost of those seven letters was ten minutes of "rutting among the headstones." The engraver's son looking on, she felt that it was enough to answer the town that has shunned her.
- 7. The quote has the connotation that these men are there to help her, to "nurse her," but the reality is that they were there to take something from her. The picture is compared to the scars on her back

- The "Misery" refers to Sethe's murder of Beloved in an attempt to save all her children from the Fugitive Bill, or the Fugitive Slave Law act that allowed slaveholders to take slaves back to the South.
- 2. Sethe refuses to attend the service for Baby Suggs as a response to the fact that nobody would enter 124. Instead she goes to the gravesite and does not participating in the hymns. To add insult to injury, the mourners refuse to touch the food Sethe brings and only eat the food they brought themselves. Sethe avoids the service full of mourners who are only filled with fear and spite.
- 3. Morrison includes the Biblical verse describing the town's expectations of Sethe to come forth despite the "difficult times." They think that Sethe has too much pride and predict her 'fall.' This belief is slowly rubbing off on Stamp Paid, thinking his actions in showing Paul D the clipping added to Sethe's hardships.
- 4. Stamp Paid hears a "conflagration of hasty voices" that were "loud and urgent." The words were indecipherable and all out of order. The only word he could hear was *mine*. It was a "private conversation" between "women and their tasks."
- 5. Stamp Paid is not accustomed to knocking on the door because of all the beneficial deeds that he had done for the many households. He believes that after he's done something for that particular house, he has "liberty of walking in [the] door as though it were his own." It seems to him as if he is forfeiting a privilege and the "coldness of the gesture" also marked him as a stranger to the house and its inhabitants.
- 6. "Spirit willing; flesh weak" refers to a mental desire but the body is unable to follow through, too weak to do what the mind wants. Stamp Paid is having an internal conflict in whether or not to knock while his physical actions signal that he is too overwhelmed to step up and make a move.
- 7. Sethe decides to take the other two daughters ice skating in an attempt to "lay it all down," as Baby Suggs had advised. She wants to have a time to just let everything go, to forget about the burden and just be carefree. It was their chance to fall down and not have any following consequences.
- 8. There is a reference to the hands around Sethe's waist to emphasize the support her daughters gave her in holding her up. There is a repetition of "nobody saw them fall" that shows the time they have to themselves without worrying about others seeing them down. Their pride is not in danger and falling down will not create taunts produced by the rest of the town.
- 9. Beloved asks Sethe if she is "finished with [her] eyes," asking her if she is done crying. Instead of simply asking "Are you done crying?" Beloved asks the question differently to show that they are not the same as the people in society, that they are different in race and in the past the two share.
- 10. Sethe finally accepts that Beloved is the ghost of her dead daughter and she views it as a "miracle that is truly miraculous." Although it is hard to believe, Sethe finds comfort knowing the daughter she killed has returned and is completely in love with her. Sethe feels as if the "peace of the winter starts seemed permanent," and she is forgiven for what she did.

- 11. Morrison relates a locked box to finding out Beloved is the ghost of her daughter. It is an extended metaphor that Sethe should approach her new discovery with caution. There would be "no smashing with an ax head" to quickly open the box and expose the "jewels" inside. Sethe is afraid that Beloved may be impacted by the time since Sethe's crime and so she must "touch the nail heads" and "test its weight." This metaphor expresses what Sethe must do to prevent any chance of breaking Beloved or scaring her away.
- 12. The red ribbon Stamp finds was tied around a "curl of wet woolly hair" that still clung to "a bit of scalp." It represents the
- 13. The "roaring" refers to the voices coming from 124 that Stamp Paid hears. The voices are those of the "people of the broken necks, of fire-cooked blood and black girls who had lost their ribbons." These people are the slaves who were abused and raped. Stamp Paid (look up on josten)
- 14. Sethe believes that "whatever is going on outside [her] door ain't for [her]." She has holed herself up in her home, seeing the world in that room. Everything she needs and all she will ever need is there. The outside world has nothing to do with her; Stamp's knocking has no meaning. Beloved is in the house now, so she has nothing to go outside for.
- 15. Stamp Paid changed his name from Joshua after he handed his wife to his master's son. He almost would have killed himself had his wife told him to stay alive. Her statement that she needed someone to return to led Stamp to believe he "didn't owe anybody anything." With that payment, he felt that "whatever his obligations were, that act paid them off." With his debts 'paid,' he tried to extend his "debtlessness" to other people.
- 16. Although Paul D leaves Sethe, he does not go live with a different family because of his pride and instead takes refuge in the cold church cellar.
- 17. The schoolteacher catches Sixo stealing and eating the pig. Caught in the act, Sixo claims that by eating the big, he is benefitting the property because he will be able to work harder and "give [him] more work."
- 18. Sethe tells the stories of Beloved's beginning years at Sweet Home. She tries to explain that she did what she had to and how much she cared for Beloved. She escaped for Beloved sake because only she had Beloved's milk and would do anything to get that milk to her.
- 19. The "black and angry dead" that Stamp thinks of refer to the slaves that were unfairly treated and killed by whites. The irony of how the blacks were accused of having a jungle in them when instead the whites were the ones who contained this jungle. The slaves who could never win their freedom but had a jungle planted in them by the whitefolks create this "mumbling" around 124.

SECOND CHAPTER

 These following four chapters begin a section that is full of stream of consciousnesses from different characters. It begins with Sethe's point of view that describes her opinions and dedication to Beloved. These chapters are largely different from the other chapters because it explains relationships between characters in different points of views.

- 2. This shift in perspective allows the reader to more closely understand Sethe's extensive dedication to Beloved. Her protectiveness is evident throughout this chapter as Sethe tries to tell Beloved just how much she loved her and how she wanted them to stay together.
- 3. Sethe reflects upon her dedication to her children and how she would not let anyone take them away from her. She tries to justify her actions and links it to how much she loved Beloved and her other children.

THIRD CHAPTER

- In Denver's point of view, it is shown that she is still a child despite the things she does for her children. She loves attention but she also loved Beloved and her innocence tries to protect Beloved from Sethe. Readers mostly learn that Denver is just a child who is forced to mature too early because Beloved seems like a baby and Sethe is too focused on Beloved and nothing else.
- Denver reflects upon how dangerous Sethe is and how Beloved should not love Sethe too much. She questions why her father never came even though he was described to be a good man. Denver reflects the fear that Sethe might kill Beloved again.
- She claims that Beloved is hers because Sethe will hurt Beloved again and Denver has the job to protect her. Because Denver drank Beloved's blood when Sethe killed her, Denver has a part of Beloved inside of her. Denver will do anything to prevent Beloved from dying or leaving her again.

FIFTH CHAPTER

- 1.
- 2. Beloved describes the sea in which slaves were passed through to get to America where they were sold. Sethe went willinging into this sea, unable to be found or followed by Beloved, making Beloved think that Sethe had abandoned her.
- 3. Sethe is associated with the place where they crouched which refers to the slave ship that took her from Africa to America. With the slaves all crammed into a small space, they were forced to crouch.
- 4. The gun smoke refers to the guns that the "men without skin" used to warn the slaves and keep them in order.
- 5. Part of this chapter is in poetic form which creates thoughts exchanged between different characters, among Beloved, Sethe, and Denver. It puts the passage in first person point of view as it describes the emotions that run through these characters and what they've wanted to say.
- 6. "Rememory" is the creation of Sethe and hers to use alone. They describe the events in her past that exist to explain the parts of Sethe's past that she tries to ignore. These are memories that Sethe has suppressed but have reemerged.
- Tell me the truth. Didn't you come from the other side? Sethe Yes. I was on the other side. - Beloved You came back because of me? -Sethe Yes. -Beloved

You rememory me? -Sethe Yes I remember you. -Beloved You never forgot me? -Sethe Your face is mine. -Beloved Do you forgive me? Will you stay? You safe here now. -Sethe Where are the men without skin? -Beloved Out there. Way off. -Sethe Can they get in here? -Beloved No. They tried that once, but I stopped them. They won't ever come back. -Sethe One of them was in the house I was in. He hurt me. -Beloved They can't hurt us no more. -Sethe Where are your earrings? -Beloved They took them from me. -Sethe The men without skin took them? -Beloved Yes. -Sethe I was going to help you but the clouds got in the way. -Beloved There're no clouds here. -Sethe If they put an iron circle around your neck I will bite it away. -Beloved Beloved. -Sethe I will make you a round basket. -Beloved You're back. You're back. -Sethe Will we smile at me? -Beloved Can't you see I'm smiling? -Sethe I love your face. -Beloved

We played by the creek. -Denver I was there in the water. -Beloved In the quiet time, we played. -Denver The clouds were noisy and in the way. -Beloved When I needed you, you came to be with me. -Denver I needed her face to smile. -Beloved I could only hear breathing. -Denver The breathing is gone; only the teeth are left. -Beloved She said you wouldn't hurt me. -Denver She hurt me. -Beloved I will protect you. -Denver I want her face. -Beloved Don't love her too much. -Denver I am loving her too much. -Beloved Watch out for her; she can give you dreams. -Denver She chews and swallows. -Beloved Don't fall asleep when she braids your hair. -Denver

She is the laugh; I am the laughter. -Beloved I watch the house; I watch the yard. -Denver She left me. -Beloved Daddy is coming for us. -Denver A hot thing. -Beloved

Beloved

You are my sister -Denver You are my daughter -Sethe You are my face; you are me -Beloved I have found you again; you have come back to me -Sethe You are my Beloved -Denver You are mine

You are mine You are mine

I have your milk -Sethe I have your smile -Beloved I will take care of you –Sethe&Beloved

You are my face; I am you. Why did you leave me who am you? -Beloved I will never leave you again -Sethe Don't ever leave me again -Beloved You will never leave me again -Denver You went in the water -Beloved I drank your blood -Denver I brought your milk -Sethe You forgot to smile -Beloved I loved you -Sethe You hurt me -Beloved You came back to me -Sethe You left me –Beloved

- 8. "I" refers to Sethe and "You" refers to Beloved. But "I" may also refer to Beloved who is also Sethe's mother, and "you" then refers to Sethe.
- 9. The chapter ends with "You are mine," each spoken by a different character. Sethe claiming Beloved, Beloved claiming Sethe, and Denver claiming Beloved.