

Name _____

Tracing Trauma in Beloved Answer Key

Chart Example

Cause of Trauma	How It Affects the Next Generation	Theme Shown
Sethe's assault at Sweet Home	Obsession with protecting her children at all costs	Trauma creates destructive survival choices
Infanticide of Beloved	Beloved returns as a haunting presence demanding recognition	The past refuses to stay buried
Baby Suggs's despair	Denver inherits fear and isolation	Collective trauma weakens community bonds

Draft Example

Thesis Statement: Slavery's trauma in *Beloved* is passed through generations by memories and silence, which shows Morrison's theme of how the past shapes families and identity.

Morrison shows that Sethe's memories of slavery and her desperate choices affect not only her but also Denver, who grows up fearful and isolated. *Beloved* herself represents the return of that past, forcing the family to face its pain.

Conclusion (Sample):

Healing comes through community voices and solidarity, as shown when the women gather to drive *Beloved* away. Morrison suggests that only by facing trauma together can families resist its power.