

Name _____

Unspoken Legacy in Beloved Answer Key

1. Possible answer: The phrase means the story is too painful, shameful, or haunting to tell casually.
2. Repetition emphasizes both the weight of memory and the tension between remembering and forgetting.
3. Both interpretations work: It may mean the horrors of slavery are so deep they cannot be borne, but also that they persist no matter what.
4. The ambiguity mirrors trauma's dual nature; it demands silence but also insists on resurfacing.
5. Likely both: The "you" can be the characters haunted by Beloved, but also the reader, who inherits the burden of remembrance.
6. The ending leaves readers unsettled, forcing them to wrestle with memory as unfinished business.
7. It situates the novel as both a historical reckoning and a literary act of remembrance, ensuring slavery's trauma remains part of cultural memory.