

Name _____



Past Traumas, Present Actions

Instructions: Trauma is not locked in the past, it echoes into the present. In *Beloved*, Morrison shows how slavery's wounds continue to influence choices, relationships, and identity. Below are several "cause" situations (rooted in past trauma). Your task is to identify the **effect** (what action or behavior results) and explain in **one sentence** why the trauma connects to the behavior.

1. **Cause:** Sethe's milk is stolen from her by Schoolteacher's nephews.

Effect: _____

Why it connects: _____

2. **Cause:** Halle witnesses Sethe's assault but does nothing to intervene.

Effect: _____

Why it connects: _____

3. **Cause:** The trauma of Sweet Home and fear of her children being enslaved.

Effect: _____

Why it connects: _____

4. **Cause:** Paul D is forced to wear an iron bit and endure dehumanizing treatment.

Effect: _____

Why it connects: _____

5. **Cause:** Baby Suggs experiences freedom after a lifetime of slavery.

Effect: _____

Why it connects: _____

6. **Cause:** *Beloved* represents the return of Sethe's repressed past.

Effect: _____

Why it connects: _____