

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Past Traumas, Present Actions Answer Key

- Effect:** Sethe becomes obsessed with protecting her children's right to her milk and their freedom.  
**Why it connects:** The violation deepens her resolve to ensure her children receive what was denied her.
- Effect:** Halle goes mad and becomes nonfunctional.  
**Why it connects:** His inability to act leads to overwhelming guilt and psychological collapse.
- Effect:** Sethe kills her infant daughter to prevent her from being enslaved.  
**Why it connects:** Her fear of slavery's brutality drives her to choose death over bondage for her child.
- Effect:** Paul D struggles with intimacy and suppresses his feelings in a "tobacco tin" heart.  
**Why it connects:** Dehumanizing experiences leave him emotionally shut down to survive.
- Effect:** Baby Suggs preaches self-love and healing in the Clearing.  
**Why it connects:** Having known slavery's cruelty, she sees freedom as a chance to nurture dignity in others.
- Effect:** Sethe fixates on Beloved, neglecting her own needs and reality.  
**Why it connects:** Beloved embodies unresolved grief, pulling Sethe deeper into her traumatic past.