

Name: _____

World Lit. Analysis
Ms. Grgas

Date: _____

Sula by Toni Morrison

“1921 Question sheet

Aim: To understand the double-edged sword of love experienced by females.



1. What does Eva's initial abandonment of her children tell us about her plight?
2. What does Plum's difficulty with his bowels later foreshadow—especially when Morrison uses the phrase “end it all” (34)?
3. How does Eva's naming all three boys dewey protect them rather than harm them (39)?
4. Who is Tar Baby (40–41)?
5. Explain why Tar Baby and the deweys all join Shadrack on National Suicide Day?
6. Describe Hannah vs. Eva's idea of man love. How do they differ?
7. What is Hannah's impression of sex? What does Sula learn from “Seeing her (mother) step so easily in to the pantry and emerge looking precisely as she did when she entered only happier” (44)? What does the need for human touch have to do with her behavior?

8. What was Plum's problem?
9. Describe Eva's rocking of Plum. What causes her to break down and cry and why were her tears bittersweet?
10. Explain what happened that made the scene quickly go from good to bad.
11. How was her act one of both sacrifice and selfishness? How do her actions address the ambiguous blessings of a mother's love for her children?
12. Finally, explain what the symbol at the top of the assignment has to do with the events of the chapter. Be specific.