



A review about Racial discrimination in *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

¹Priyanka Rani, ²Dr. Satinder Kumar Verma

¹Research Scholar, School of Humanities & Education, Singhania University

²Assistant Professor, SD College, Ambala Cantt.

Abstract : In Morrison's words, the bluest eye is a "story of female violation revealed from the vantage of the victims or could-be victims...the girls themselves" (Afterward). The young black girls in the novel constitute the powerless and the most vulnerable, but they also pose as a site to understand power, internalized racism and redress. What happens if you center those who have been ex-centric to the normative formation? I chose to focus on the way that Pecola's body, her yearn for blue eyes, and her longing for community, constitutes means for redress and resistance, rather than internalization of self-hatred. In the position of a black child, drinking milk, purchasing candy with Mary Jane on it, and sipping out of a Shirley Temple mug become ways to articulate not only her identity as a black girl, but an understanding of her position of a black girl in a white society. Blue eyes represent a remedy for the structural violence that she experiences – poverty, domestic violence, and hunger. These different forms of redress may be ways to articulate her blackness in relation to whiteness, a form of temporary relief from the pain of the extreme violence that she endures, and a means to forge a new politics.



Key words: The Bluest Eye; internalized racism; cultural ideals; white-defined beauty; cultural influence

Introduction : Knowledge of American history is an important factor in understanding *The Bluest Eye*. The novel was written during the 60s and 70s, but is set during the 40s. Despite the setting, her novel reflects the happenings of the late 60s and early 70s in which African American culture was becoming well defined and recognized as a part of the once dominantly white American culture. However, racism was and still is quite common in American society and in fact, racism was taking new forms in 1940s America. In *The Bluest Eye*, Morrison took a different approach to the traditional white-versus-black racism. She acknowledged that most people are unaware of the racism that exists within a culture and often the racism that exists within themselves.