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Recitatil-By-Toni-...

Toni Morrison: Nobel Prize Recipient

Toni Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford to George and Rahmah Wofford in 1931. The second of four children, Morrison was raised in the small Ohio town of Lorain in a tight-knit black community. Morrison describes her father, a shipyard welder, as a racist. Having experienced virulent racism, he despised whites. Her mother, on the other hand, was an integrationist. Both of her parents and her larger community instilled in Morrison a strong sense of self-esteem and cultural identity.

Morrison's writing career began at age 30 when, feeling unfulfilled, she joined an informal writer's group. Morrison drafted a short story about a black girl who wished she had blue eyes. She had never written fiction or poetry before. This story was the seed of her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, which she published nine years later. Since then, she has authored nine additional novels, two plays, and a work of literary criticism. "Recititaf" is her only published work of short fiction. Since 1987 she has focused mainly on writing but has also taught classes at Yale and Princeton Universities.

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." – Toni Morrison

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