

Sula novel analysis

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Sula is a novel that tells the story of complex situations of different, yet quite similar, women who represent the society of African American females in the middle twentieth century. It allows the reader to see how the people in the situation of these characters react to obstacles and events, showing a vision of American womanhood. Sula tells the history of what women faced in their marriages, for instance, Sula's grandmother called Eva got married to Boy Boy and had three children, one of which gave birth to Sula.

After five years of sad and disgruntled marriage, Boy Boy took off, leaving Eva with just a dollar and sixty-five cents, five eggs, three beets and no idea of how to feel (SULA/32). Focusing on this same character (Eva), we see that she went through a lot trying to raise her kids, which was really hard, she lost one of her legs for money (SULA/31). All of what I mentioned earlier in this passage is similar to what African American women went through after the world war two. Generally, during that time, African Americans faced segregation, segregation wasn't the only issue of women but also sexism.

Now imagine how poor a woman is going to be without her husband and at the same time she has to take full responsibilities of the child care instead of taking part in it. All of these are some of the history of African American women. Looking at another character - Shadrack. In 1919, Shadrack returned to the Bottom "blasted and permanently astonished by the events of 1917" (1919). In other words, he suffers from shell shock, or what we would now call post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because of the disturbing things he saw in combat. Shadrack's situation exposes and tells us the horror of the world war.

For example, Shadrack was a veteran of World War I, so in 1917, he was in the battle with his fellow comrades in the treacherous grounds of France (Sula 7). The battle was just detrimental in all sorts of ways because at any time anyone, including Shadrack, could die from a bomb or grenade. For an instance, in one of the battles, fought, which would be the last one Shadrack fought in the war while running through the fields in pain because of a nail pierced the ball of his foot, he witnessed the head of one of his comrades get blown off from the rest of his body.

This traumatic event forever changed the way Shadrack saw things. This is history right here, Shadrack was just an example. There were a lot more people in the war with Shadrack that experienced a worse thing than Shadrack experienced.