

# [A slavery was a very harsh and horrible](https://assignbuster.com/a-slavery-was-a-very-harsh-and-horrible/)

A former President of the UnitedStated, Abraham Lincoln, once said “ I think that slavery is wrong, morally, socially and politically. I desire that it should be no further spread in theseUnited States, and I should not object if it should gradually terminate in thewhole Union”( “ Abraham Lincoln Quotes”).

A Nobel Prizewinner, Toni Morrison, wrote a famous novel called Beloved. One of the major subject throughout this novel wasslavery. There are many things that occurred throughout this novel that arevery unsettling, most of which had to deal with the treatment of AfricanAmerican.

In chapter one, Mr. Garner, a former slave owner, told his fellowslave owners, “‘ Y’all got boys,’ he told them. ‘ Young boys, old boys, pickyboys, stroppin boys. Now at Sweet Home, my niggers is men every one of em. Bought em thataway, raised em thataway'” (12). This statement shows how slavewere treated. Mr. Garner buys these slaves and owns them as his property.

Toni Morrison talked about how slaves weretreated throughout the novel. For example, they were chained together duringslave trades. The passage where Morrison described the way the slaves “ chain-dancedover the fields” symbolizes that slavery was a very harsh and horrible way tolive, and living in chains without freedom dehumanized the way a regular humanshould be treated (Morrison 128).             Slavery was a very harsh and horrible wayto live, and living in chains degraded African Americans from humans. They werenot treated with any respect, or any proper care.

The slaves were chainedtogether for most of their life. In the novel, “ forty-six slaves would be yankedby the chain that bound them and no telling who or how many would be killed”(Morrison 128-129). They were treated like animals without emotions, livingday-by-day without knowing when it is going to be their last. The dehumanizationof these slaves did not happen by accident. The system of slavery could not produceany other results.

These slaves lived a constrained life lacking in free will. After being chained and being treated like animals for their entire lives, theyinevitably begin to lose what makes them a human. This is also because the mastersbelieved them to be close to animals in the first place. They would chainedtogether like cattle is whenever they are being transported. In the eyes of theslave owners, the slaves were not as human as they were. Not only is this howthe slave owners thought, but after a long period of time the slaves began tobelieve it themselves.             As they chain-danced across the field, theystarted singing a variety of songs.

According to the novel, some of the songsthey sang were “ the women they knew; the children they had been…lovingly of graveyardsand sisters long gone” (Morrison 128). Singing and trying to have a positiveenergy even though they were treated like animals symbolizes how badly theywanted to act and be treated like actual human beings. They wanted to live a normallife with their families instead of being a slave. The singing of music alsorepresented emotions, passion, and memories. The singing of these songs was away to express their true feelings.

Nevertheless, they could not expressthemselves the way they really wanted to. They had to “ garble the words sothey could not be understood; tricking the words so their syllables yielded upother meanings” (128). They sang these songs because it humanized them. Theyget the feeling of a normal human being. However, if they were to get caught bytheir master singing these songs they could be killed, being whipped brutallyor forced to do extra work out in the field.

They would again be treated likeanimals. There was no care for their health; they walked for miles in the hotsun and lived in rough huts sleeping on a dirt floor.             These slave had enough of living in chainsand being treated unfairly their entire life. Therefore, the main character inthe novel, Sethe, kills her own children.

Sethe is not willing to let herchildren end up re-enslaved and would rather see them dead. Sethe believes thatif she kills her children, they would have a better life living in heaven thanliving in the earthly hell of being slaves. That is how dehumanized the slavesfelt after being treated like animals all their lives.  Even if Sethe wanted to keep her daughter, baby Suggs, she would not be the perfect role model for her kid because in thenovel, there is no such thing as a family.

The slaves cannot be married nor arethey allowed to be mothers or fathers to their children. Families where splitup and slaves had no control and they could not protect the ones that theyloved.               Slave masters enforced this rulebecause it helps dehumanized the slaves. If they were to have a lovely andhappy family they would feel more human and that’s something the slave mastersdid not want. Furthermore, the slaves adopted a way that prevented them frombeing hurt by the breaking up of families. They learned to form a protectivebarrier against it and the barrier they created is to not get close or expectto be able to protect the ones they love. In addition, the roots of slavery arecarried over to modern America in some African Americans families.

Some AfricanAmerican families still have problems with family structure and slavery can beheld accountable for this because of the way they were treated and thesplitting of families as slaves.           In conclusion, they were many key pointsabout slavery in the novel. It brings to light many things that are not wellknown. The novel also helps to show the roots of African Americans and how thoseroots still affect African American lives today. The novel indicated thecruelties inherent in slavery, how they were being treated like animals andbeing dehumanized as a person.

They lived in chains without freedom for theirentire lives. They had to work majority of the day in blazing sun hot, barleygiving any food. This was dehumanizing the slaves and that is not how a regularhuman should be treated.