



## Toni Morrison

### TeachingBooks Movie Transcripts

Here are the transcripts for two films found on [www.TeachingBooks.net](http://www.TeachingBooks.net) with Toni Morrison and Andrea Davis Pinkney speaking about *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

**Introductory Movie: an introduction to the book from Toni Morrison and Andrea Davis Pinkney.**

**MORRISON:** You are about to take a journey through time in American life when there was as much hate as there was love, as much anger as there was hope, as many heroes as cowards. A time when people were overwhelmed with emotion and children discovered new kinds of friendships and a new kind of fear.

**PINKNEY:** That is the voice of Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison. I'm Andrea Pinkney — Vice President and Publisher of Houghton Mifflin Children's Books. The journey Ms. Morrison speaks of is travel through this powerful book that she's written entitled *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*. This is really the story of America's journey toward tolerance. This book recalls the monumental struggle to integrate America's schools and centers around the Supreme Court's historic decision in the case known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. The events leading up to and following that fateful decision would impact millions of lives and set right America's course.

Ms. Morrison has collected a treasure chest of archival photographs. These indelible images inspired her to pen words that may have been thought or spoken during this tumultuous time. What follows is Ms. Morrison's message to today's students and young people, putting the events of a half-century ago into relevant context for their lives. All of us at Houghton Mifflin are proud to be part of this groundbreaking work: a master storyteller, a truly unique approach — an important time in our history that every one of us must remember.

**Extra Movie: Dr. Morrison takes viewers on a journey through the images and emotions that surrounded the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.**

**MORRISON:** This book is really about you, even though the main event in the story took place many years ago. What happened before it and after it is now part of all our lives. To enliven your journey I imagined the thoughts and feelings of some of the people in the photographs chosen to help tell this story. They are children, teenagers, adults — ordinary people leading ordinary lives, all swept up in events that would mark all of us.

**VOICE OF GIRL:** *The law says I can't go to school with white children. Are they afraid of my socks? My braids? I'm seven years old, why are they afraid of me?*

**MORRISON:** Your journey through this book begins on a narrow path when the laws in many states, called Jim Crow laws, demanded separation of the races in all public places, and especially the public schools. No matter how much they argued or how long they complained, black families had to send their children to all-black schools, no matter how far away, no matter how dilapidated the buildings, and no matter how poor the supplies. The separate schools were supposed to be equal, but often were not.

In 1952, five cases combined as *Brown v. Board of Education* were taken to the Supreme Court by lawyers for the NAACP. The decision in 1954 that said separate schools were not equal threw many states, cities, towns, neighborhoods, principals, teachers, parents, students into confusion. Battles were fought to honor, to ignore, or overturn the decision. Many battles were won, some quietly, some not.

But none of that happened to you. Why offer memories you do not have? Remembering can be hurtful, even frightening, but it can also swell your heart and open your mind. On your trip through this book, I hope you will wonder what it felt like to be these everyday people who made it legally possible for you to go to any school and to become whatever you want. *Remember* is celebration of the power and justice of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

#### **Children's Books by Toni Morrison**

- REMEMBER: THE JOURNEY TO SCHOOL INTEGRATION, Houghton Mifflin, 2004
- POPPY OR THE SNAKE?, THE, (with Slade Morrison; illustrated by Pascal Lemaître), Scribner, 2004
- ANT OR THE GRASSHOPPER?, THE, (with Slade Morrison; illustrated by Pascal Lemaître), Scribner, 2003
- LION OR THE MOUSE?, THE, (with Slade Morrison; illustrated by Pascal Lemaître), Scribner, 2003
- BOOK OF MEAN PEOPLE, THE (with Slade Morrison; illustrated by Pascal Lemaître), Hyperion, 2002
- BOOK OF MEAN PEOPLE JOURNAL, THE (with Slade Morrison; illustrated by Pascal Lemaître), Hyperion, 2002
- BIG BOX, THE (with Slade Morrison; illustrated by Giselle Potter), Jump at the Sun / Hyperion Books for Children, 1999

#### **Books by Toni Morrison**

- LOVE, Knopf, 2003
- PARADISE, Knopf, 1998
- JAZZ, Knopf, 1992
- PLAYING IN THE DARK: WHITENESS AND THE LITERARY IMAGINATION, Harvard University Press, 1992
- BELOVED, Knopf, 1987
- TAR BABY, Knopf, 1981
- SONG OF SOLOMON, Knopf, 1977
- SULA, Knopf, 1973
- BLUEST EYE, THE, Henry Holt, 1969

#### **Other Selected Writings by Toni Morrison**

- DANCING MIND, THE (text of Nobel Prize acceptance speech), Knopf, 1996
- DREAMING EMMETT (dramatic play script), first produced in 1986

*Note: Bibliographies created in 2004.*

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- American Missionary Association Archives Addendum, Trinity Schools, Amistad
- Research Center at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana: page 14
- Timothy Greenfield-Sanders: Author portrait
- AP/Wide World Photos: pages 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 44, 57, 61
- Bettmann/CORBIS: front jacket, 11, 15, 22, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70, 79
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