

17: Toni Morrison

Geboren: 1931

Gestorben: 2019

Toni Morrison (eig. Chloe Ardelia Wofford) zählt heutzutage zu den bedeutendsten **Vertreterinnen der afroamerikanischen Literatur**. Ihre Arbeit beeinflusst weiterhin Schriftsteller und Künstler durch ihren Fokus auf das afroamerikanische Leben und Amerikas Fehlern selbst sowie ihrem auffallenden differenzierten Schreibstil.

Erste Aufmerksamkeiten erlangte sie durch ihren ersten Roman **“The Bluest Eye”** (1970), welche von den Kämpfen von Afro-Amerikanerinnen in einer rassistischen und sexistischen weißen Gesellschaft handelt, und stark positive Kritik erlangte. Auch die vielen anderen Romane, welche folgten, wurden von Kritikern sehr gut aufgenommen. 1993 erhielt sie daher den **Literaturnobelpreis** für ihr Gesamtwerk.



Zitate:

“If I take your race away, and there you are, all strung out. And all you got is your little self, and what is that? What are you without racism? Are you any good? Are you still strong? Are you still smart? Do you still like yourself? I mean, these are the questions. Part of it is, ‘yes, the victim. How terrible it’s been for black people.’ I’m not a victim. I refuse to be one... **if you can only be tall because somebody is on their knees, then you have a serious problem.** And my feeling is that white people have a very, very serious problem, and they should start thinking about what they can do about it. Take me out of it.”

„What I think the political correctness debate is really about, is the power to be able to define. The definers want the power to name. And the defined are now taking that power away from them. “

“The function, the very serious function of racism is distraction. It keeps you from doing your work. It keeps you explaining, over and over again, your reason for being. Somebody says you have no language, and you spend twenty years proving that you do. Somebody says your head isn’t shaped properly so you have scientists working on the fact that it is. Somebody says you have no art, so you dredge that up. Somebody says you have no kingdoms, so you dredge that up. None of this is necessary. There will always be one more thing.”