

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**  
**BA THESIS**

The Problematics of Race in Selected Writings of Toni Morrison  
Klára Staňková

The thesis focuses on three later novels of Toni Morrison: *Paradise*, *A Mercy* and *God Help the Child*. In addition, Ms. Staňková discusses the short story "Recitatif" and also draws brief connections with two further early works of Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved*. Following a review of racial relations and racism in the United States, the introductory chapter centers on the argument that race is a social construct which nevertheless continues to matter. As Ms. Staňková puts it in the abstract: "[t]he fact that our society is still remarkably shaped by the concept of race highlights that we have not yet reached the post-racial era and therefore, the examination of race and racial injustice is of paramount importance" (5). The objective of the remainder of the thesis is to illustrate this point on the above-mentioned literary works by Morrison.

The analysis of Morrison's fiction is detailed and considerate in respect to the author's depiction of the continual presence of racism along with other forms of oppression, ethnic hatred and exploitation (for example sexism in *Paradise* and enslavement of Native Americans in *A Mercy*). It illustrates how white supremacy and systemic racism affect, in different ways, all the characters in Morrison's selected literary works. What the thesis mentions but discusses to a lesser extent is the question of class, and how class in Morrison's fiction intersects with race. Could Ms. Staňková address this question during the defense? Also, perhaps in a way that relates to this issue, could she address another question, which I will formulate with the help of the following words of the character of Claudia from *The Bluest Eye*: "There is really nothing more to say--except why. But since *why* is difficult to handle, one must take refuge in *how*." Are there any (implicit) causes of the various forms of injustice depicted in Morrison's writing and does Ms. Staňková see any differences between the author's early and late works?

**Proposed grade:** Výborně (1) or Velmi dobře (2)

Pavla Veselá, PhD.  
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