

Standing at the threshold of this class, I look to the parallels to guide me through the rest. Not only does *Beloved* have parallels within Dante's *Inferno*, but I find parallels between *Beloved* and my own life. Life has thrown me around through twists and turns, deaths and births, love and loss, selfishness and selflessness. I alternate between the present and the past, much like the narrative within *Beloved*. I struggle between being the pilgrim and the sinner, or a combination of both. I'm at the threshold of being a teacher rather than a student, teaching kids in classrooms I used to sit in. As I considered the threshold of the class, I realized that I stand within the threshold of many things in my life. I'm at a crossroad of leaving my past behind, both figuratively and literally, shedding the old body that's brought me this far, and in many ways, I believe Morrison creates her characters facing the same situation. Paul D chooses to be selfish, abandoning Sethe and having relations with Beloved, Sethe chooses to be her version of selfless by killing Beloved, Beloved chooses selfish love with both Paul D and Sethe.