

AP English 12: English Literature and Composition
Song of Solomon
protagonist & motif analysis assignment

Song of Solomon is the story of Milkman's life, from his birth in chapter one through his subsequent journey and quest for identity.

In your analysis of the novel, you will choose the most pivotal zeniths and nadirs that Milkman experiences in his life, especially those that *force him to grow and change*. As you focus on Milkman as the protagonist, discuss his advocates and antagonists (those forces that aid and hinder him on his quest) at each plot. Include supporting quotations in your analysis, and make sure to weave into your discussion the four major motifs that play a role in Milkman's life: *flying, naming, singing, and loving*.

Remember these crucial elements of the assignment:

- Choose no fewer than eight zeniths and nadirs.
- Discuss each zenith and nadir in a separate paragraph.
- Provide a headline-style title for each zenith and nadir.
- Examine the role that advocates and antagonists play in Milkman's growth.
- Support your interpretations and analysis with textual detail.
- Include examples of major motifs.
- Maintain your focus on Milkman's role as protagonist, his quest for identity, and the transformation he experiences.