

# Existential Crisis in the Novel *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

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## Abstract

“Racism is beyond common sense and has no place in our society” says Morrison. Racism takes place not only from the society, as well as it starts from their family itself. Here the author brings racism in a family those days. Because of their color many dominated. Even in current era people are dominated through external appearance. Seeing discrimination, people are dominated. In this novel the character of Pecola is dominated by her family and society, because of her color she didn't get any happiness from her family. It makes her to get more depressed. She was mentally and physically abused by her own father. Her inner thoughts expresses that she has achieved beauties, but in reality she got mad because of the society. The society leads the people according to their behavior. So society plays the vital role. The paper would bring out the struggles that she underwent during her childhood days and how this struggles are existing in day today's life would be the outcome of this presentation.

**Keywords;** Existentialism, Identity crisis, superstitious aspect, sexual harassment, racism.

“*The Bluest Eye*” is a novel was written by an American novelist Toni Morrison .Toni Morrison was born at Ohio in the year 1931, Toni Morrison has written ten novels. The bluest eye is the best novel among the ten novels. In 1988 she got Pulitzer Prize. The bluest eye project a incident had happened in author's village (Ohio). The protagonist of this novel is Pecola. She is a Nine year old African girl. This novel published in the year 1970. This novel is the impact of the great depression and the civil war. During the civil war time the black people fighting for their freedom to the white people. There were many African people has died during the civil war time. The main reason for this novel is the racism. Because of that, the author wants to project the suffering of the African people through this novel. The concept of racism has project through the main character of this novel pecola. In this novel her expectation leads her to become a mad. Pecola has

project as a ugly girl who longs for the Blue color eyes. The author Toni Morrison expresses the situation faced by Pecola in the society and the family.

She did not experience the love and care of her parents in her life time. Because of her external appearance. The society did not treat her like other children's. She happened to be dominated by her society, because of that; she thinks that if she gets Blue eyes she may be treated like other children by the society. Here the society has created racial thoughts in Pecola's mind. In her whole life she did not experience any kind of love and happiness by her parents because of her color, she suffered by her society. Pecola was raped by her father and, when she informed about the sexual harassment to her mother, she doesn't believe her and helped her. She could not say to any one that the shame has happened for her.

This incident shows that, the African girls are not having the security, not only in the society in the family too. After that she went to the Soaphead church, to pray to the god to get blue eyes. She believes that the priest will help her to get the blue eyes. But the priest has used Pecola to kill a dog which the priest doesn't like. Her expectation of the taught become failure one. Mrs. Yacobowski is a white woman, Pecola's mother has worked at her home. Pecola went to give the money to that white lady. But she dominated her by refusing to touch to take the money from her hand. Here the white lady is not accept Pecola as a girl they seen only the color of her. There is a fixed thought in their mind is, that they have to insult the black people. They will not see whether they are girl or boy and child or old instead of seeing all these they will see only the color of the person. In all the way the white people try to find a reason to dominate the black people. Pecola was raped by her father for the second time then she became pregnant. Here we can see the problems existing in all the ways to Pecola. There are no souls to help her and support her except her friends Claudia and Frieda. She became helpless in the society.

Even in school there are different sections that black and white. Even in sports the black child haven't been given any preference sections of the society. Black people are avoided by the white people. If they have given chances to black, they might have showed their fabulous. The black also contribute to the society as much they can. In all the place black people were dominated by white people. They are not getting any freedom from white people. Even in the bus the black people sit on the seat when white people comes black

people have to get up and leave the place for the white people. In common place itself there is a discrimination between black people and white people.

In this novel Pecola was hated by her mother because of her color. Her mother was working in a white lady house and she blindly believe that black is ugly and white is beauty, when Pecola was born, her mother expected Pecola to be white she saw Pecola is black she started to hate Pecola. Even in the family there is discrimination between black and white. Than how can the black people can expect the freedom to the white people? In this novel the character of Pecola was raped by her father, if she might have not raped by her father, she might have not become mad. She might have become famous in the society.

In this novel the bluest eye the author has project the suffering and the insecurity of an eleven year old girl. It projects the racism in America. If she could have taken care by her parents she may not be become a mad. She faced many problems in the society as well as in the family also. During those days people will not consider the issue of the black women seduce. Because they cannot raise their voice against white people. The system of American people creates the situation to be happening in the society. Because of this system of American, Pecola suffering in this novel. She is black, so they did not consider Pecola's seduce, is not important one for them. If she did not long for blue color eye and if she did not seduce by her father, she may be live her life as like other black people.

“It was when I realized I needed to stop trying to be somebody else and be myself, I actually started to own, accept and love what I had”.

## Reference

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