



BOOK CLUB MEETING

Come join us in the
Clubhouse Library on
Wednesday, February 19, at 4:00
for a discussion of

The Bluest Eye
by
Toni Morrison

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison's first novel, was published in 1970. It's the story of 11-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl who longs to have blue eyes because they will make her beautiful. After all, that's the standard of beauty that she sees, not the dark skin and eyes that she has.

On the other hand, the story's narrator, Claudia, a few years younger than Pecola, dislikes and resents white girls with their light skin and many privileges. When her family gives her a blue-eyed doll for Christmas, she takes it apart, just as she would like to take apart the little white girls to see what makes them so attractive to other people.

In telling the story of these girls and their families—who were demeaned, looked down on, and discriminated against—Morrison pulls us into their hard lives of grinding poverty. The power of her writing also makes us feel the despair and self-hatred that racism can cause.

*Everyone is welcome to join a discussion about beauty and racism that is still relevant today, fifty years after the publication of *The Bluest Eye*.*