

APPENDIX

Toni Morrison's biography

Chloe Anthony Wofford was born on February 18, 1931. Her parents, George and Ramah Wofford, left sharecropping in Alabama for Lorain, Ohio. George became a ship welder. Ramah did housework and was a member in a book club. She passed her habit on to her second daughter. Young Chloe enjoyed reading Earnest Hemingway, Willa Cather, and William Faulkner. With four children, the couple had to carry a heavy load. At the age of 13, Chloe Wofford went out to do housework after school. This experience was later recounted in her first novel.

In 1953, Chloe Wofford finished her bachelor degree in English from an all-black institution, Howard University and it was here that "Toni" became her nickname. Chloe did her master's degree in English literature at Cornell University on the theme of suicide in Virginia Woolf's and William Faulkner's work in 1955. Chloe Wofford started her career as an instructor at Texas Southern University in Houston after her graduation and left the university in 1957. She returned to Howard where she married an architecture in 1959, but her marriage ended in divorce in 1964.

With her two sons, Harold Ford, 3, and Slade Kevin, 3 months old, Toni Morrison moved to Syracuse and then later to New York City. Beginning in 1965, Morrison edited

manuscripts of textbooks at a subsidiary and then at the headquarters as a senior editor at Random House 3 years later (Dreifus 73-5; Gray 86-7). She was an associate professor of English at State University of New York at Purchase during 1971-1972 and became a visiting lecturer at Yale University from 1976-1977. At Albany she was the Schweitzer Professor of humanities of State university of New York 1984-1989 and between 1986 and 1988 a visiting lecturer at Bard College. Since 1989 Morrison has worked at Princeton University as the Robert F. Goheen Professor of the Humanities (Ryan 2116).

