

# Home Study Guide

## Home by Toni Morrison

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## Plot Summary

"Home" is a novel by author Toni Morrison. The story follows Frank Money, a Korean veteran, in the aftermath of his life when he is discharged from the army. After watching his two best friends die in front of him, and being responsible for killing numerous people, including a young Korean girl, Frank is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). For the first year after getting out of the army, Frank drinks too much and lives on the streets. When he decides to sober up and clean himself up, he meets Lily, working at the drycleaner where he takes his army pants and jacket for cleaning.

Frank's rages somehow land him in a psychiatric ward of a hospital. He escapes from the hospital to make his way back to his hometown of Lotus, Georgia. His mission is to save his sister from an unknown illness that is threatening to kill her. As Frank makes his journey from the north to the Midwest to the south, readers have a bird's eye view of the prejudice that follows Frank as he is a black man living in an era where segregation is not completely abolished.

When Frank rescues Cee, a local woman in Lotus, along with the help of the other neighborhood women are able to save Cee's life. Cee and Frank both realize that the town they hated all their lives and couldn't wait to escape from, Lotus, Georgia, is actually their home.



# Chapters 1 and 2

## Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

The main character and narrator, along with his younger sister, are crawling through the grass in Georgia. They are crawling up to a fence, where they are watching some horses. While watching the horses, they see some men bury a body in a hole that they've dug. When the brother and sister go home, the adults don't notice they've been missing because something happened while the children were gone that has the attention of the adults.

The narrator is pretending to be asleep. He mentions shots, doctors and morphine. He also mentions that if they think he's asleep they might loosen the cuffs around his wrists. When he tries to focus on a blank sheet of paper to regulate his breathing to make it seem as if he's sleeping, he thinks of the letter he received, which tells him to come quick or she'll be dead.

He also thinks that he has to get to the exit door down the hall that he heard from the orderly Crane is never locked. He thinks about his first escape, which is when the threats from letters and hooded men came to his hometown. He thinks about one of the men that refused to leave was then beaten to death. The narrator manages to loosen the canvas cuffs around his wrists, rips off his hospital gown and has to leave without any shoes because he doesn't have any. He puts on his army pants and jacket, heads down the hall and gets out of the building on the fire escape.

He mentions the service medal in his pocket. He thinks of calling Lily but is ashamed to admit that he escaped from the nuthouse. The narrator makes it to AME Zion house, where Reverend John Locke lets the narrator in. the narrator introduces himself as Frank Money. The reverend recognizes that Frank is from the hospital down the street. He says John is lucky because the hospital sells a lot of dead bodies from there to the medical school. Jean Locke, John's wife, tells him to stop saying that as she comes down the stairs.

Franks says he doesn't remember how he got to the hospital, just that there was a lot of blood running down his face. He assumes he must have been acting up in some way, but that he wasn't arrested. Frank says he is heading to Georgia, but he thinks about how after a year of being out of the army, he can't face his friends' parents because he is alive and they are dead.

The reverend and his wife warm Frank's feet, give him something hot to drink and crackers to eat. They put him to bed and when Frank wakes the next morning, they feed him breakfast and give him enough money for a bus ticket to Portland. The reverend gives him the name of another reverend there to contact when he arrives.



The reverend mentions an integrated army. Frank recalls the doctors treating him telling him that his bouts of acting up will pass, but to stay away from alcohol, which he isn't able to do until he meets Lily. The reverend takes him to the bus. On the bus, Frank dreams of bloody war scenes, but he thinks about how when he met Lily that he could sleep easier and stop drinking.

Reverend Maynard in Portland isn't very nice to Frank, but he does give him a list of places to stay and eat in Chicago. Frank takes the train. On the train ride, Frank thinks about when his first episode came on, how all of the color drained out of everything and he saw everything in black and white. Frank falls asleep and wakes up to a bleeding man and woman that he finds out were attacked when the train made a stop.

The porter offers Frank some whiskey, which he drinks, and Frank asks the porter where he should eat and stay from the list. In Chicago, Frank eats at the diner the porter tells him to and he meets a man there, Billy Watson. Billy takes Frank home to stay with him for the night so Frank doesn't have to stay at the YMCA.

Billy's wife goes to her night shift job, while Frank has a few beers with Billy while Billy's kids play. When Frank goes to bed, he has a dream but it isn't as bad as they usually are. When he wakes up, he sees a man he saw on the train wearing a zoot suit standing at the window. When Frank calls to the man, the man disappears.

Frank thinks about his sister Cee. They were always very close. He remembers wiping away her tears and think that she would be okay when he was leaving for war. He thinks that Cee isn't okay.

## Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

It seems that the narrator is a patient in a hospital. Since he talks about cuffs being on his wrists, he is either a prisoner in a regular hospital or a prisoner in a prison hospital. The memory of the letter implies that the narrator received some kind of a ransom note. It can be a ransom note about his sister since the opening chapter was about a brother and sister during their childhood in Georgia.

The narrator is planning an escape from the hospital. It seems as if the narrator is a black man. Since he talks about men with hoods running them out of town, he could be referring to the Ku Klux Klan. The fact that he has an army jacket, pants and service medal suggests he is or was serving in the army. Additionally, he mentions escaping from the nuthouse, so he must have been in the psychiatric ward of the hospital.

Since Frank Money is heading to Georgia, it implies that he was the boy telling the story at the start of the novel, but that now he is a grown man. When the reverend mentions an integrated army, this suggests that Frank is indeed black. The bouts of craziness the doctors diagnose Frank with is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but they likely hadn't named it yet for the time-frame of this novel.



It seems as if Frank's sister, Cee, is sick. This is one of the reasons that he is returning to Lotus, Georgia now. The next morning, Billy cooks breakfast and takes Frank to Goodwill to get some newer clothes and proper shoes. Frank gets on the train and heads to Georgia.



# Chapters 3 and 4

## Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

Frank describes how he, his father and pregnant mother had to leave their home behind in Texas. They were walking with the possessions they could carry in a wheelbarrow until one of their neighbors came back to give them a ride. They have to leave the wheelbarrow of belongings behind for their ride into Louisiana. Shortly after they arrive, Frank's mother gives birth to his sister, Ycidra. Everyone calls her Cee except for their mother. He says their last name cracks him up, Money, because they don't have any.

Cee is soaking in a tub of water. She thinks back to how mean her step-grandmother and grandfather were when she and Frank were growing up. Since their parents, Ida and Luther, worked two jobs, the grandparents were the ones that took care of the children. They whipped them and put water on their cereal instead of milk. Eventually, Ida and Luther save enough money to rent their own home in Lotus, Georgia.

One summer, after Frank goes off to war, Cee meets Principal, who calls himself Prince. They marry and he moves them to Atlanta. He buys Cee a new dress. Cee finds out that he only married her for her parents' car, which they drove to Atlanta. When Prince leaves Cee, he leaves her without any money. Cee starts working at a restaurant, but now she asks her neighbor Thelma if she knows of a better job. Thelma tells Cee about a doctor who is looking for a live-in to help around the house, in addition to their cook and cleaning maid.

Cee gets off the bus and walks to the doctor's house for her new job. She walks around the back door to the kitchen. The maid, Sarah Williams, invites Cee in and tells her a little bit about her new employers, Dr. and Mrs. Scott. Cee briefly meets with Cee, but says her husband, a scientist and doctor will explain what Cee's role is. When Cee goes back into the kitchen, Sarah feeds Cee and then shows Cee her room downstairs in the basement. Sarah says that the Scotts have two daughters, but they both are in hospitals because they have Cephalitis.

Dr. Scott tells Cee that she just has to be steady and calm. He asks her if she has any children or has ever been with a man. She says she was married but doesn't have any children, which seems to please Dr. Scott. Cee mentions that Dr. Scott helps all women patients and that when two of them die, he pays for their funerals. If the women he helps get sick, he sends them to the county hospital.

Sarah and Cee become close friends and like family to each other. They eat their meals together. Sometimes, the women even share the cooking.

## Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Ironically, Frank's last name is Money. Since he comes from a poor family and still doesn't have any money as an adult, it is a twist of irony. Since Cee's life growing up was very difficult and they lived in poverty, the first boy that comes along to show her attention is who she runs off to marry. Additionally, Frank had always been in Cee's life to protect her and take care of her. Now that Frank is gone, Cee seeks that love and attention from someone else, and she thinks she finds it in Prince.

It seems that Dr. Scott is an abortion doctor.





# Chapters 5 and 6

## Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

Frank says he was wandering around the streets, semi-homeless and drunk, for the year after he was discharged from the army. After glimpsing his reflection in a window and not recognizing himself, he decided to sober up and clean up. He takes his clothes to the dry-cleaner and that's where he met the third girl that he's even been with in his life.

Lily was working as a seamstress at a playhouse before starting at the dry-cleaners. The director of the play was arrested, the playhouse shut down, so she had to find another job. She saved to buy a house. When she spoke to the Realtor about the houses she liked, the Realtor shows her a law that says she can't live there because she is black. She meets Frank when he drops his army clothes off for cleaning. He picks up his clothes and waits for her to get off work to walk her home. She invites him up to an apartment she rents and they become a couple.

Lily notices that Frank has episodes, but she mostly leaves him alone and chooses to ignore it. It comes to a peak at a church picnic where Frank runs away after seeing an Asian girl. Lily and Frank make up and Frank promises never to do anything like that again.

As time goes on, Frank continues not to work and doesn't do anything but make a mess around the house. The fact that their goals are completely different, coupled with Frank's behavior, makes Lily angry. The last straw is when Frank asks Lily to borrow money to go save his ailing sister.

## Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

The implication is the girl that Frank meets at the dry-cleaner is Lily. Frank is suffering from the things he saw and the things he did when he was in the Korean War. This is what causes him to stare off into space, shut everyone and everything else out, and what causes him to run away when she sees the Asian girl at the picnic.

During this time, segregation is still a reality. This is why Lily cannot buy any of the houses she wants because they are in neighborhoods where the only blacks that are allowed to live there are the servants. Frank continues to plummet into his depression. While Lily recognizes that his behavior has something to do with his time in Korea, nobody is equipped to deal with Frank's problems.



# Chapters 7 and 8

## Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

Frank talks about Lotus, Georgia as the worst place in the world. He says that he and his friends, Stuff and Mike couldn't wait to get out of there. Thank God for the army. The only thing that can draw Frank back there is his sister.

Lenore, Frank and Cee's step-grandmother hires a twelve-year-old girl to help her clean and iron. Lenore likes the girl so much that she also confides in her. Lenore thinks about how when her first husband was killed because he was black that she moved to the house he left her in Lotus, Georgia, along with all of his money. She meets Sale, Frank and Cee's grandfather, and Lenore and Salem marry.

Lenore says everything is fine until the rest of Salem's family moves in and takes over her house. She especially hates the infant daughter, which is Cee. When Cee's mother can't take her to work with her anymore, Ida leaves the children with Lenore. Lenore says the four-year-old brother mostly takes care of Cee anyway. Lenore talks about how slow and messy Cee is. Lenore even thinks about the widow, Mrs. K, who is also a hairdresser, and how she would seduce the teenage boys in town.

The only thing Lenore dislikes about Jackie is that Jackie's dog goes wherever Jackie goes. When Lenore catches the dog trying to eat one of her chickens she beats the dog with her walking stick. Jackie leaves with the dog and never returns. Shortly after, Lenore has a stroke. Salem stays by her side, and the neighborhood ladies clean, cook and iron.

## Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

Frank and his friends joined the army to get out of Lotus, Georgia. They didn't necessarily know what they were getting themselves into. Lenore is a very bitter and angry woman. While she has suffered through some of her own tragedies, such as her husband being murdered, she has no compassion for others.

The only person Lenore seems to relate to is Jackie. Lenore even alienates Jackie by harming the one thing that Jackie treasures above all else—her beloved dog. Ironically, while Lenore has always been the one in charge, the stroke forces Lenore to be dependent on others.



# Chapters 9 and 10

## Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

Frank talks about what it is like to be in Korea. One day, when he is on duty, he notices a small hand reaching out into the heaps of garbage, foraging for food. He realizes it is a little Korean girl. He often sees her there when he is on duty. Another soldier comes to relieve Frank and when he sees the little hand stealing the food out of the garbage, he goes over to the girl. The girl says what sounds like, "Yum-yum" to the soldier and then touches his groin and says the same thing.

Frank thinks about watching both of his friends, Mike and Stuff die while they're in Korea. He also thinks about how the guard blew off the head of the little girl scavenging in the garbage. By this time, Frank is on the train that is taking him to Georgia. In Tennessee, the train stops to have something fixed. He goes to a local store to buy a soda and hears noises coming from behind a house across the street. He finds two women there in a fight and a big man nearby watching them

When the big man says something to Frank, Frank beats him, repeatedly hitting him in the face until the women scream and pull at Frank to get off their pimp before Frank kills him.

## Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

The story Frank tells about the little Korean girl foreshadows something happening to her. She either is killed by the normal atrocities of war or one of the soldiers kills her. Frank is allowing his rage to build up inside of him—his rage for the deaths of his friends and for whatever trouble Cee is in. Frank allows this rage to build until it explodes. This is what gets him in trouble and is likely what landed him in the mental hospital at the beginning of the novel.



# Chapters 11 and 12

## Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

Frank is talking about having to watch people die. He also says to write this down, as if he is talking to someone, such as a psychiatrist. He says he watched many people die, including his two best friends in Korea. He refuses to watch his sister die.

Frank arrives in Atlanta. While he's waiting for his cabdriver to arrive to take him to the suburbs, where Cee works, he ambles around the city. While he's walking around, Frank is attacked by a gang of boys, who strike him on the head with a pipe and steal his wallet. Later, Frank sits at an all-night diner. He thinks about how he and Lily were happy about him leaving. He also realizes that Lily doesn't cure his rage, but rather abates it so that it is lingering beneath the surface waiting to spring out.

Frank boards the bus early the next morning to go to Cee. He arrives at Beauregard Scott's house, where the M.D. sign hangs out front. Frank enters through the back door, where he greets Sarah and asks where Cee is. He goes downstairs and runs into the doctor, who threatens to call the police and pulls a gun on Frank. When Frank finds Cee downstairs, she looks asleep on her bed, but her pulse is very faint. He scoops her up and walks out of the house while the doctor is yelling at Sarah to call the police.

When Sarah notices that Cee's health is failing, Sarah writes a letter to Frank. Frank waits at the bus stop with his ailing sister in his arms. He switches from the bus to a cab, where he tells the driver to take them to Lotus. Cee is bleeding on the cab seat and now has a fever. Frank takes his sister to Ethel Fordham's house. When she looks under Cee's dress and feels that she's on fire, she tells Frank to go outside because she has work to do.

## Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Frank's need to protect his sister is what propels him to finally return to Georgia. Additionally, Cee is Frank's only living relative because at this point, his parents are dead.

It seems as if Dr. Scott has been experimenting with some of his medicines and instrument inventions on Cee. This is why Sarah notices that Cee is losing weight, has longer periods and is more tired than usual. Cee has an infection of some sort from the doctor experimenting on her. This is why she is bleeding and has such a high fever. Ethel Fordham must be the local woman in Lotus that takes care of the ailing. Frank takes Cee to Ethel to save Cee's life.



# Chapters 13 and 14

## Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

Ethel doesn't even want Frank on her porch. The medicine she gives Cee doesn't work. Now all of the neighborhood women are using their own cures to try to save Cee, but her fever won't break. Jackie is informing Frank of all this because Ethel and the other women won't let him near Cee now.

When Frank first walks outside, he notices how rich in color everything is. While the women tend to Cee, Frank waits in line for work as a cotton picker. Then, he returns to the house he parents' rented and retrieves a hidden box with two of Cee's baby teeth, two of his favorite marbles and a Bulova watch. Frank starts fixing up the house so that he can rent it.

Two months later, Cee is finally well enough to move into the house with Frank. Frank notices that Cee is different—she is changed from the person that she was before he left for the war. When Cee finally tells the women what she remembers about the doctor sticking her with a needle that makes her go to sleep and that she had bleeding that she thought was a menstrual problem, they tell her that she's nobody's trash. They say if she is good enough for Jesus then that's all she needs to know.

After this, the women start a quilting circle, which they have at Ethel's house. They also come to visit Cee. Even though Cee has known all of these women her whole life, she sees them from a different perspective now that she has been away from Lotus and returned to it.

Frank notices that Cee is stronger than ever now—in health and in spirit. He doesn't know what happened with the women but he does know that his sister no longer needs him to protect her. She can protect herself.

Cee thinks about how Ethel telling her that she'll never be able to have children. Cee thinks about how she always thought that lack of education is what denied her life. Then, she realizes that the women of Lotus are not educated in school, but are educated in so many ways that have nothing to do with going to school.

Cee tells Frank she can't have children. When he tries to comfort her, she stops him. She says it is normal for her to be miserable and she cries as she sorts out the cloth pieces for her quilt. Frank goes out to the porch to figure out how he is going to deal with his own problems.

Frank admits to whoever he is talking to that is writing down his story, which could be the author or the reader, that he is the one that killed the little girl in Korea. He is the one that allowed her to unzip his pants and pleasure him. He is the one that then shot her in the face to kill her.



## Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

Frank is seeing Lotus, Georgia from a new perspective. This is why everything looks less pale and more vivid in color that he noticed before. Cee has very low self-esteem because of her step-grandmother, Lenore, calling her a gutter baby and being mean to her while she was growing up. This is why Cee ran off with Prince and then allowed the doctor to use her as part of his experiments.

Cee is learning things she never knew before from the women. While they do it in a stern manner, they are showing Cee what real life is all about, and allow her to understand what it feels like to be loved. Ethel Fordham, especially, is a motherly figure to Cee. She teaches Cee not to allow what others think of Cee to define who she is as a person, because then this makes Cee a slave.



# Chapters 15, 16 and 17

## Chapters 15, 16 and 17 Summary

The next morning, Cee seems better and Franks asks her what happened to the place they used to sneak off to watch the horses. She says she isn't sure but she thinks they turned it into a gambling place with women. She tells him to ask their grandfather, Salem. His grandfather tells Frank they turned it into a place where they gambled on men fighting each other. Only man was allowed to leave alive.

Cee refuses to give up the first quilt she makes, even though it is mediocre at best. Frank tells he has an idea. He goes with Cee, the quilt and the shovel to dig up the bones of the man that was lynched back when they were kids. Frank uses the quilt as a shroud to wrap the man's bones. When they re-bury him under a tree, Frank nails a sign he made to the tree saying, "Here stands and man." When they are done, Cee tells her brother they should go home.

## Chapters 15, 16 and 17 Analysis

Frank and Cee have both faced the demons they faced when they were growing up in Lotus, Georgia. While these are the demons that originally made them leave Lotus, by overcoming these demons, they can finally return home. They both see Lotus in a way now that they have gone out and experienced what other parts of the world offer. They realize that this is their home—literally and figuratively.



# Characters

## Frank Money

Frank Money is a black man and Korean War veteran. He moved from Texas to Georgia with his family when he was four years old. While growing up in Lotus, he couldn't wait to get out of the town. When the war breaks out, Frank enlists in the army with his two best friends, Stuff and Mike.

While growing up, even as a four year old, Frank is his sister, Cee's, protector. He would watch her when she was a baby while their parents were at work and in the care of their mean and evil step-grandmother, Lenore. When they were children, Cee and Frank would sneak to a nearby farm, where they would watch the horses, and even witnessed a burial of a man there once.

While Frank is at war, he watches both of his best friends die in front of him. Frank is responsible for killing people, as well, including a young Korean girl that would perform oral sex on him. He admits to shooting her in the face to kill her. This, along with all of the other atrocities he witnesses while away at war, causes Frank to suffer rages that seem to be one of the side effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Frank ends up making a journey across the country to save his sister from experimentation by an abortion doctor in Atlanta. He saves Cee one last time before she becomes strong enough to live happily with her brother. Frank learns that Lotus is his home, and that home is where and what you make of it.

## Ycidra Cee Money

Ycidra Cee Money is Frank's younger sister. She is four years younger than Frank. She is born right after the Money family leaves Georgia and arrives in Louisiana on their way to Jeffrey, Georgia, where Lenore and Salem live. Lenore, Cee and Frank's step-grandmother, always refers to Cee as a "gutter baby" because she was born on the road rather than in a home as other children are.

Cee has very low self-esteem, so the first boy that comes along and pays attention to her is who she runs off to marry. After marrying Prince, he and Cee move to Atlanta. Prince ends up leaving Cee and taking off with Salem's car. Cee gets a job and starts to pay her own way. She asks her neighbor, Thelma, to help her get a better job, which is how Cee ends up working for Dr. Beauregard Scott.

The doctor experiments on Cee, which causes her to get an infection. When Cee is near death, Frank arrives to save her because he received a letter from Cee's co-worker, Sarah Williams. When Frank returns to Lotus, Georgia with Cee, the neighborhood women are able to nurse Cee back to health over a two month period.





These women also teach Cee that she is worthy and that she doesn't have to allow other people to define the person that she is.

## **Reverend John Locke**

Reverend John Locke is the man that helps Frank when Frank first escapes from the hospital. The reverend allows Frank to spend the night in his home and gives him money the next morning. The reverend also provides Frank with another reverend to contact when he arrives in Portland, Oregon. Reverend John Locke also drives Frank to the bus station to catch the bus to Portland.

## **Jean Locke**

Jean Locke is Reverend John Lock's wife. When Frank arrives at their home, Jean serves Frank a hot drink and feeds him some crackers. She also has Frank soak his bare feet in a hot water basin to warm them from walking in the snow.

## **Reverend Maynard**

Reverend Maynard is Frank's contact when he arrives in Portland. The reverend is not very nice or friendly with Frank. He does allow Frank to stay on his porch and gives Frank a list of places to eat and stay when Frank arrives by bus in Chicago.

## **Billy Watson**

Billy Watson is the man Frank meets while eating at the diner in Chicago. Billy invites Frank to spend the night in his home for the night. The next morning, Billy takes Frank to Goodwill so Frank can buy some more respectable clothes and regular shoes. Billy then drops Frank back off at the bus station.

## **Sarah Williams**

Sarah Williams is the maid that cooks and cleans for Mrs. Scott and Dr. Scott. Sarah and Cee become very close friends while they work together in the Scott home. Sarah is also the one that writes a letter to Frank telling him that Cee is very ill and that he needs to come for her.

## **Dr. Beauregard Scott**

Dr. Beauregard Scott is the doctor that Cee and Sarah work for in Atlanta. He has a wife and two daughters. He is an abortion doctor but he is also an inventor. He seems to



invent medicine and medical instruments for which he uses Cee to experiment. From his experimentation, Cee gets an infection and almost dies.

## **Ethel Fordham**

Ethel Fordham is the woman in Lotus that Frank takes Cee to when Cee is dying. She uses some of her own medicines to try to nurse Cee back to health. With the help of the other neighborhood women, Ethel is able to save Cee's life, but Cee is unable to have children after her illness.

## **Lenore**

Lenore is married to Salem, which is Frank and Cee's grandfather. Lenore had a first husband, who was shot and killed in the town where she lived prior to moving to Lotus. Lenore resents the fact that Salem's family comes to live with them. Lenore treats the children, especially Cee, very poorly. Lenore ends up having a stroke in her old age, which leaves her barely able to speak.

## **Luther**

Luther is Frank and Cee's father. When he moves his family to Lotus, he is working two jobs to try to make ends meet. Eventually, he is able to rent his own home to move Frank, Cee and his wife, Ida.

## **Ida**

Ida is Frank and Cee's mother. When she moves her family to Lotus, she is working two jobs to try to make ends meet. When Cee is an infant, Ida takes her to the cotton field where she works. When her boss says she can't bring Cee anymore, Ida asks Lenore to care for Cee.

## **Salem**

Salem is Frank and Cee's grandfather. He marries Lenore, who is his second wife. Salem is the type of man that doesn't talk much, but seems to know everything that is going on in and around Lotus.



# Objects/Places

## Lotus, Georgia

Lotus, Georgia is the hometown of Cee and Frank Money. It is a small town in Georgia. Frank leaves Lotus when he enlists in the army. Cee leaves Lotus when she marries Prince and moves to Atlanta. At the end of the novel, both Cee and Frank return to live in Lotus.

## Hospital

At the opening of the novel, Frank is in a hospital. It turns out to be a psychiatric hospital. Frank escapes from the hospital and makes his way to the home of Reverend John and Jean Locke.

## Portland, Oregon

Portland, Oregon is where Frank arrives by bus after leaving the Locke home. Portland is also where Frank meets and stays with Reverend Maynard. Frank takes a train from Portland to Chicago.

## Chicago, Illinois

When Frank arrives in Chicago, Illinois, he eats at a diner. While at the diner, Frank meets Billy Watson. Frank leaves Chicago by train to continue his journey to Georgia.

## Service Medal

Frank receives a service medal for serving in the army and the Korean War. Frank has the service medal in his pocket when he leaves the hospital. Frank continues to carry the service medal with him.

## Scott House

The Scott House is where Dr. Scott practices. It is also the Scott House where Cee and Sarah work. When Frank comes to rescue Cee, he enters and takes Cee out of the Scott House.



## Letter

Sarah writes a letter to Frank. The letter tells him that Cee is dead. Sarah summons Frank via the letter in an attempt to save Cee's life.

## Quilt

When Cee is well, she learns how to make her first quilt. She wants to try to sell quilts to the local town woman for money. Frank uses Cee's first quilt as a shroud to wrap up the bones of the man that was lynched, so that they can rebury him.

## Money House

The Money House is the home Ida and Luther rented when Cee and Frank were children. Frank returns to the Money House when he returns to Lotus, Frank repairs the home so that he and Cee can live in it.

## Matchbox

The matchbox contains two of Cee's baby teeth, two of Frank's favorite marbles and a Bulova watch. They hid it in the Money House. When Frank first returns to the house, he retrieves the matchbox.



# Themes

## Good versus Evil

The primary plot of "Home" is that of good versus evil. Primarily, it questions the good and evil of mankind in various situations. The first good and evil situation the novel tackles is the treatment of black people during the era. The evil side of segregation talks about the prejudice, lynching, killing and beating of black people, especially in the south.

The second good versus evil theme relates to the Korean War. War has two sides to it. Since Frank is fighting on the American side of the war, the Koreans are evil to him and to the other Americans Frank serves with in the army. This forces Frank to commit the act of killing, which is normal evil. In a war situation, however, killing the enemy is a necessary evil for survival.

The third is the struggle that Frank Money has inside with good and evil. Frank remains silent, has nightmares, drinks and cannot hold a job after the war because of all of the evil he witnessed and committed during the war. Meeting Lily draws out Frank's good side because she makes him want to stop drinking and be a better man. Unfortunately, Lily isn't enough for Frank to overcome his demons.

Frank's evil side comes out in his anger. When a situation angers Frank, Frank loses control of his actions. This loss of control propels him to beat people up and commit acts that Frank doesn't even remember nor have any control over his actions. Frank's ultimate good side comes out when it pertains to his sister Cee. From the time they are children, until they are adults, Frank always protects and cares for Cee.

## Mental States

Another primary theme in the novel is Frank's mind or mental state. Primarily, the focus falls on the sanity, or insanity, of Frank. This is especially true when he is in a psychiatric hospital, but doesn't even remember what happened that landed him there in the first place. Frank's mental state comes into question when he does whatever it is that lands him in the hospital. Frank, however, seems to regain control of anger and rage, for the most part for the remainder of the novel.

While Frank does lose control when he beats up the pimp in Tennessee, he seems to learn how to control his mental state after this. Frank remains calm when he comes face to face with Dr. Scott. Frank remains calm and composed for the remainder of the novel, through nursing Cee back to health and getting his life back together when he returns to Lotus.



## Relationships

Friendships and family relationships are a third major theme of "Home". Frank has two best friends, Stuff and Mike. They grow up together and even enlist in the army together. While these three friends live together, two of them also die in each other's company. Frank, Mike and Stuff see each other as such close friends that they are closer than their own families. This closeness is what propels Frank to try to save his dying friends when they are in Korea. When Frank is unable to save their lives, Frank feels responsible for their deaths.

The second type of relationships in the novel is the relationships among family members. It proves that even the relationships among family members differ from one to the other. In a way, Frank is more of a father to Cee than their real father, Luther. Frank is the one that cares for and protects Cee throughout their childhood, and even tries to resume this role in adulthood. In the end, Cee and Frank realize that they are truly the only family they have, even though their grandfather and step-grandmother are still alive.

# Style

## Point of View

"Home" is written in the first person point of view. When the writing is in the first person, it is from the perspective of the character speaking for that particular chapter. Primarily, it is from the perspective of Frank Money, but some of the chapters are from Cee's point of views, others are from Lily's point of view and still others are from Lenore's point of view.

The novel swings back and forth between the present and the past. The present represents the time after Frank returns from the Korean War. The past represents the time when Frank was growing up and before he enlisted in the army.

The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with the main character, Frank Money. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside the head, thoughts and inner struggles of Frank Money as it pertains to the plot. The reader cares what happens to Frank Money. The point of view also allows the other characters in the novel to see the events through the eyes of some of the other characters, such as Cee, Lily and Lenore to expand on the events taking place.

## Setting

"Home" has several different settings throughout the novel. Some of the settings include Portland, Chicago, Tennessee and Georgia. The setting changes as Frank makes his journey across the country to Georgia. In the beginning and at the end of the novel, the primary setting is Lotus, Georgia. The novel covers the childhood of the Money children, Frank's time serving in the Koran War and the aftermath of the war.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware of Frank's past and why he is trying to save his sister. However, as events unfold, Frank's childhood, time in the war and his journey are a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the 20th century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

## Structure

The novel "Home" is divided into 17 chapters. The length of each chapter ranges from one page to 15 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and some dialogue. The narrator injects his own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing his opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is the struggle of human beings in choosing between good and evil. One subplot is the mental states of the characters. Another subplot is human relationships, such as friendships and family relationships.





## Quotes

"I hugged her shoulders tight and tried to pull her trembling into my own bones because, as a brother four years older, I thought I could handle it"

Chap. 1, p. 4

"Maybe I was in a fight?"

Chap. 2, p. 13

"I always thought it was nice, how she thought about the name, treasured it."

Chap.3, p. 40

"You will have to be steady and calm. Always."

Chap. 4, p. 64

"I don't think you know much about love. Or me."

Chap. 5, p. 69

"I'll do anything you say."

Chap. 6, p. 74

"Only my sister in trouble could force me to even think about going in that direction."

Chap. 7, p. 84

"Now she had to be content with the company of the one person she prized most of all —herself."

Chap. 8, p. 92

"Yum-yum."

Chap. 9, p. 96

"Kill the fuckers."

Chap. 10, p. 97

"No more watching people close to me die."

Chap. 11, p. 103

"I got work to do."  
Chap. 12, p. 116

"I ain't going nowhere, Miss Ethel. This is where I belong."  
Chap. 13, p. 126

"I shot the Korean girl in her face."  
Chap. 14, p. 133

"She say what happened to my Ford?"  
Chap. 15, p. 140

"Here Stands a Man."  
Chap. 16, p. 145

"Come on, brother. Let's go home."  
Chap. 17, p. 147

## Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Frank Money? Why does he choose to be homeless instead of returning to Lotus after he is discharged from the army? Do you believe Frank is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)? Do you think he learns how to control his anger and rage?

Discuss the relationship between Lily and Frank. Are they friends, lovers, in love, or something else? What do think Frank gets from his relationship with Lily? Why does Lily ignore the fact that Frank never really leaves the apartment or work? How does Frank feel about Lily? How does Lily feel about Frank? How do Lily's feelings change after Frank says he has to leave? What does she do about it? What happens to Lily?

Who is Cee Money? Why does she run away to Atlanta when she marries Prince? Why do you think she stays in Atlanta after Prince leaves her? What do you think Dr. Scott does to make Cee so sick?

Who is the true Lenore? Why is she so cruel to Cee? Do you believe Lenore's stroke and helplessness is justice for how cruel Lenore was? What do you think happens to Lenore?

Discuss the Korean War. What impact does the war have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them, and how does it derail their lives?

Discuss the prejudice in the novel. What impact does prejudice have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them, and how does it derail their lives?

Do you think Cee and Frank live the rest of their lives in Lotus? Do you think Frank ever contacts Lily again? What do you think happens with Frank's rage? Do you think that Frank and Cee see Lotus as their home now?