

---

## The Gender of Diaspora in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** Yogita Goyal  
**Abstract** This essay looks at Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* through the lens of black diaspora theory to uncover its gendered critique of black nationalism. Further, it suggests that Morrison uses two distinct modes - myth and realism - to construct two different representations of diaspora. While the conception of diaspora at the mythic level affirms unity, the representation of diaspora at the realist level makes apparent the fact of fracture. In this way, even as Morrison provides us with an injunction to revere tradition, she simultaneously deconstructs the basis for articulating a stable vision of what such tradition might look like.  
**Publication** MFS: Modern Fiction Studies  
**Volume** 52  
**Issue** 2  
**Pages** 393-414  
**Date** 2006  
**Journal Abbr** MFS  
**ISSN** 0026-7724  
**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost  
**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:05:31 PM  
**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:05:31 PM

### Tags:

1900-1999, American literature, black nationalism, gender, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, relationship to tradition, *Tar Baby* (1981), treatment of African diaspora

### Notes:

This essay looks at Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* through the lens of black diaspora theory to uncover its gendered critique of black nationalism.

---

## Blackness and Art in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** Linda Krumholz  
**Publication** Contemporary Literature  
**Volume** 49  
**Issue** 2  
**Pages** 263-292

**Date** 2008  
**Journal Abbr** ConL  
**ISSN** 0010-7484  
**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost  
**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:06:05 PM  
**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:06:05 PM

**Tags:**

1900-1999, American literature, black aesthetic, by African American novelists, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, Tar Baby (1981), treatment of black identity

**Notes:**

Challenges criticism on racial identity in Morrison's novel (Lepow cited) by considering the novel's place in the Black Arts and Black Nationalist movements of the 1970s.

---

## Finding the Door: Vision/Revision and Stereotype in Toni Morrison's Tar Baby

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** Letitia Moffitt  
**Publication** Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction  
**Volume** 46  
**Issue** 1  
**Pages** 12-26  
**Date** 2004  
**Journal Abbr** Crit  
**ISSN** 0011-1619  
**Short Title** Finding the Door  
**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost  
**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:08:18 PM  
**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:08:18 PM

**Tags:**

1900-1999, American literature, in characterization, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, stereotypes, Tar Baby (1981)

**Notes:**

Revisits the novel and explores what the author sees as productive contradictions in the novel, particularly in terms of racial, gender, and national stereotypes.

---

## A Historical Transposition: Toni Morrison's Tar Baby and Frantz Fanon's Post-Enlightenment Phantasms

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** Julia V. Emberley  
**Publication** MFS: Modern Fiction Studies  
**Volume** 45  
**Issue** 2  
**Pages** 403-431  
**Date** 1999  
**Journal Abbr** MFS  
**ISSN** 0026-7724  
**Short Title** A Historical Transposition  
**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost  
**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:09:50 PM  
**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:09:50 PM

### Tags:

1900-1999, American literature, application of theories of Fanon, Frantz (1925-1961), gender, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, relationship to material reality, sexuality, Tar Baby (1981), treatment of race

### Notes:

Poststructuralist and Postcolonial reading of the novel using the writings of Frantz Fanon.

---

## Descent in the 'House of Chloe': Race, Rape, and Identity in Toni Morrison's Tar Baby

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** John N. Duvall  
**Publication** Contemporary Literature  
**Volume** 38  
**Issue** 2  
**Pages** 325-349  
**Date** 1997  
**Journal Abbr** ConL  
**ISSN** 0010-7484  
**Short Title** Descent in the 'House of Chloe'  
**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost

**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:10:55 PM

**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:10:55 PM

**Tags:**

1900-1999, American literature, double consciousness, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, rape, Tar Baby (1981), treatment of African American identity

**Notes:**

Accession Number: 0000314854. Peer Reviewed: Yes. Publication Type: journal article. Language: English. Update Code: 000004. Sequence No: 0000-1-32073. DOI: 10.2307/1208786.

Exploration of Morrison's treatment of gender, Western ideals of beauty, and "racial self-discovery."

---

## Contested Visions/Double-Vision in Tar Baby

**Type** Journal Article

**Author** Judylyn S. Ryan

**Publication** MFS: Modern Fiction Studies

**Volume** 39

**Issue** 3-4

**Pages** 597-621

**Date** 1993

**Journal Abbr** MFS

**ISSN** 0026-7724

**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost

**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:13:32 PM

**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:13:32 PM

**Tags:**

1900-1999, American literature, double vision, intertextuality, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, relationship to theorizing, Tar Baby (1981)

**Notes:**

Uses a theoretical framework for analyzing the novel's treatment of gender conflicts.

---

## The Knight and the Princess: The Structure of Courtly Love in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** Patricia Magness  
**Publication** South Atlantic Review  
**Volume** 54  
**Issue** 4  
**Pages** 85-99  
**Date** November 1989  
**Journal Abbr** SoAR  
**ISSN** 0277-335X  
**Short Title** The Knight and the Princess  
**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost  
**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:14:10 PM  
**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:14:10 PM

### Tags:

1900-1999, 400-1499 Medieval period, American literature, André le Chapelain, French literature, influence on Morrison, Toni (1931- ), Latin language literature, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, prose, sources in André le Chapelain, *Tar Baby* (1981), *The Art of Courtly Love*, *Tractatus de Amore*, treatment of African American culture, use of myth

### Notes:

Situates the novel in the tradition of romance and explores the complicated cultural heritage of *Tar Baby*.

---

## Paradise Lost and Found: Dualism and Edenic Myth in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*

**Type** Journal Article  
**Author** Lauren Lepow  
**Publication** Contemporary Literature  
**Volume** 28  
**Issue** 3  
**Pages** 363-377  
**Date** 1987  
**Journal Abbr** ConL  
**ISSN** 0010-7484  
**Short Title** Paradise Lost and Found

**Library Catalog** EBSCOhost

**Date Added** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:15:45 PM

**Modified** Thursday, September 30, 2010 12:15:45 PM

**Tags:**

1900-1999, American literature, especially myth, Morrison, Toni (1931- ), novel, of Garden of Eden, relationship to creation of the world, Tar Baby (1981), treatment of dualism

**Notes:**

Situates Morrison within a broader history of ideas and Western cultural traditions to understand the treatment of gender in the novel.