

Dr. Giselle Anatol

English 334

11 December 2011

*no originals?*

Pecola in Second Life

If I were going to show Pecola in Second Life, I would show Pecola's home. I would show the different rooms and the furniture. I would want to show how the families lived. I would show a half wall made of boards to divide the living room and bedroom. In the living room, I would show the Christmas in the corner and a blue couch with a large split down the middle of it. Across from the couch, there would be a large picture of Greta Garbo. The picture would take up the entire wall. For the kitchen I would show two counters, a small old icebox and a small stove. Between the stove and the icebox, there would be a sink and a small step stool in front of it. On the counter would be a Shirley Temple cup. When you click on the cup you would see the quote, "We knew she was fond of the Shirley Temple cup and took every opportunity to drink milk out of it just to handle and see sweet Shirley's face." (23 Morrison) On the ground, there would be a blanket. In the bedroom, I would have four beds positioned on one wall close together. On the second bed, there would be a Shirley Temple doll. When you click on the doll, you see the quote, "I learned much later to worship her, just as I learned to delight in cleanliness..." (23 Morrison)

*good!*

My reasoning for showing Pecola's home is to show what her life is like. People are real when they are at home. When no one is around, people show who they really are. Showing the Christmas tree, in the corner is showing that Pecola's mother does not care to clean or take care of the Breedlove home. By showing the couch with the tear in it, shows that the family is miss treated by the white community. The Greta Garbo picture shows that her mother desires so deeply to be the societal view of beautiful that she doesn't care about the family. There are no family pictures but a giant picture of a stranger. This shows who and what is really important in Mrs. Breedlove's mind. The Shirley Temple cup and doll, shows that Pecola is already following in her mother's footsteps and the blanket on the kitchen floor, shows what pushes Pecola over the edge in the end of the book.

insightful point

good

yes

Well done!

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White Envy in *The Bluest Eye*

In designing a world for Second Life, I would focus on the book, *The Bluest Eye*. In my Second Life world I would want to show the people visiting the problems the Afro-American community faced in the forties. The main issue was segregation, and more specifically the desire of Afro-Americans to be the societal standard of beautiful, being white.

To show this on Second Life, I would have three rooms and two hallways connecting the rooms. The rooms and hallways would not be set up in any specific order. In the first room, I would have the walls covered in pictures of Afro-American life in the 1940's. These pictures are attached, please look at appendix A to see the pictures spoke<sup>n</sup> of here. When the visitor enters there will be an arrow pointing to the left, on this wall will be the first picture of the soldiers. This shows the Afro-American populations' action with the United States military in World War II. Moving from here, the visitor will follow arrows on the floor to the second wall showing two pictures of African American children in the 1940s. After this, the visitor will continue on to the third wall, which shows a group of people playing a board game together. From here the arrows will lead the visitor to a door that leads into the first hallway.

why-OK!

In the first hallway, the walls will start out brown and fade into white. <sup>good!</sup> On the walls I will have words describing different aspects of the Afro-American life in America:

- Civil Rights
- Richard Wright
- Jazz <sup>research?</sup>
- Muddy Waters
- Billie Holiday
- James Cameron
- Quotes from the Book:
  - o "When the deep purple falls over sleepy garden walls, someone thinks of me..." (12 Morrison)
  - o "So when I think of autumn, I think of somebody with hands who does not want me to die." (12 Morrison)

When the visitor is looking at the song lyrics, they will be able to click on a small piano in front of it that will play a small part of the song, "Deep Purple" by Larry Clinton and Bea Wain. <sup>Why? provide some lyrics</sup>

The visitor then walks into the second room. In the second room I want to show the difference between Pecola and Claudia. Pecola already desires to look white but Claudia is still proud of being black and does not understand the societal push to be white. I will have the room divided in two. One side will be brown and the other side white. The visitor will start by going to the brown side. <sup>good</sup>

which will have a big picture of Shirley Temple with a large black "X" drawn over the picture. Lying on the ground will be a blond, blue-eyed doll that is broken with the legs and arms lying around the body and the eyes lying on the floor next to the body. When you click on the doll you will get a quote, " I destroyed white baby dolls." (22 Morrison) The visitor will then continue around the room and come to another picture of Shirley Temple; this one is not crossed out. The visitor can then click on the picture and read the quote,

Thus the conversion from pristine sadism to fabricated hatred, to fraudulent love. It was a small step to Shirley temple. I learned much later to worship her, just as I learned to delight in cleanliness, knowing, even as I learned, that the change was adjustment without improvement. (23 Morrison)

The visitor then continues on to the white side of the room, which shows a picture of Greta Garbo and in front of the picture would be an empty milk jug. When the visitor clicks on the milk jug, the quote, "We knew she was fond of the Shirley Temple cup and took every opportunity to drink milk out of it just to handle and see sweet Shirley's face." (23 Morrison) From here, the visitor will continue to the door and enter the second hallway. The pictures for room two can be found in Appendix B.

In the second hallway, the walls will be white and on the left wall, I will show the three different versions of the Dick and Jane quote in blue letters. The quote is found on page three and four of *The Bluest Eye*. On the right wall, I will

*better placed in front of ST photo*

show pictures of segregation in America in the forties. I will also have Jim Crow written all over this wall. At the end of the hall I will show pictures of children choosing white dolls over black ones. These pictures can be found in Appendix C.

When the visitor enters the third room, I will have the walls, ceiling, and floor white. On the left and the right walls, I will have pictures of white stars and politicians from the forties. *Such as?* On the wall across from the door the visitor enters, I will have the outline of two little girls. They will be blacked out to look like shadows. One will be a little taller than the other and will be holding a doll. You will not be able to see any features of the girls except for the taller girl will have blue eyes and nothing else. When you click on the girl you can read the quote, *good*

What? What will we talk about?

Why, your eyes.

Oh, yes. My eyes. My blue eyes. Let me look again.

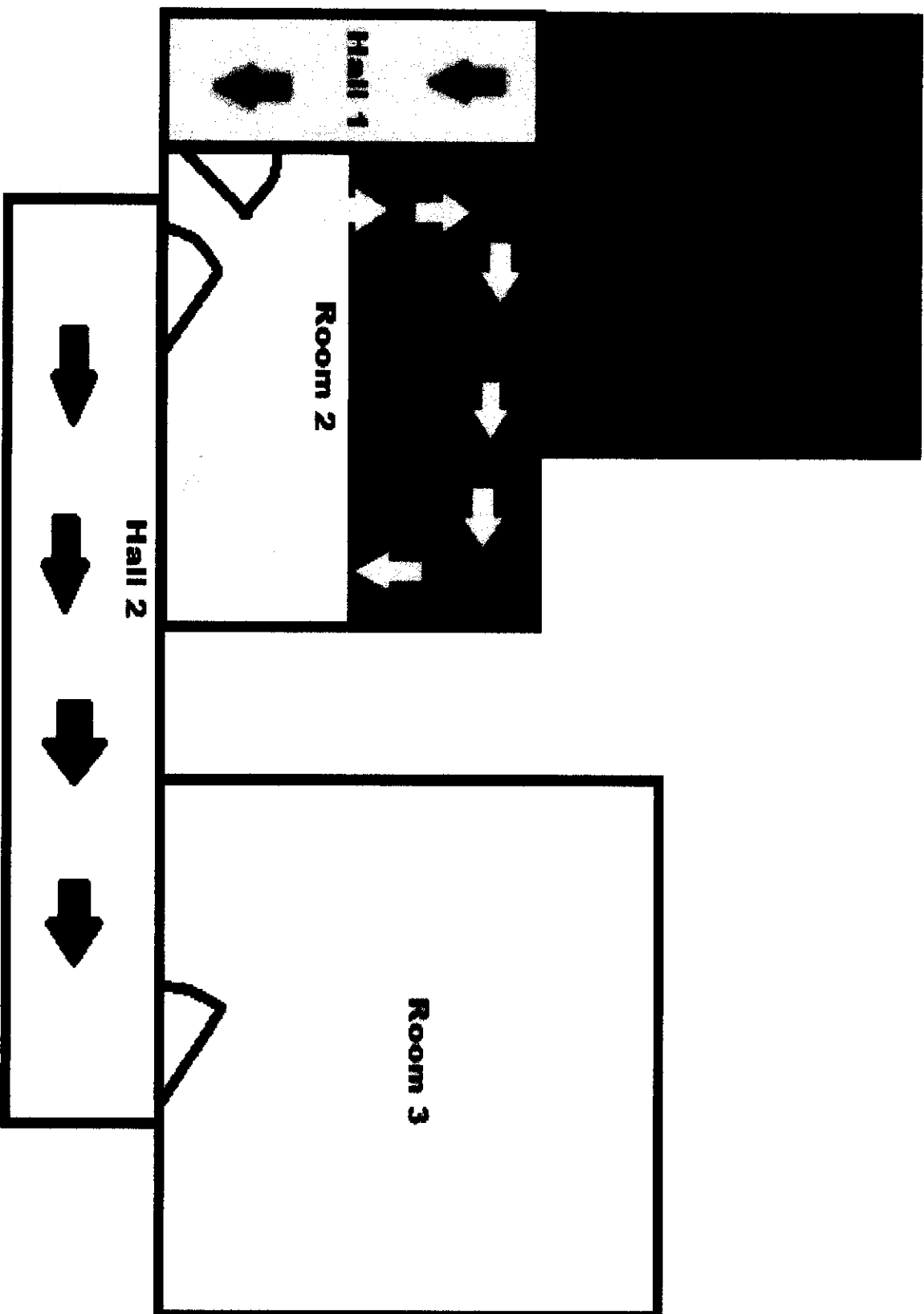
See how pretty they are.

Yes, They get prettier each time I look at them.

*They are the prettiest I've ever seen. (201 Morrison)*

When the visitor turns around they will notice that there is not door where they came in and there is no way to leave the room. *insightful!* Pictures for this room can be found in Appendix D.

# Floor Plan for Second Life World



**Appendix A - Room 1**



**First Wall**



**Second Wall**



**Second Wall**





SOLDIERS FEB 90 P 11 B

← AT PIGAS →

1011.

28.7.1.

Third Wall

**Appendix B - Room 2**



**Left Wall**



**Broken Doll**

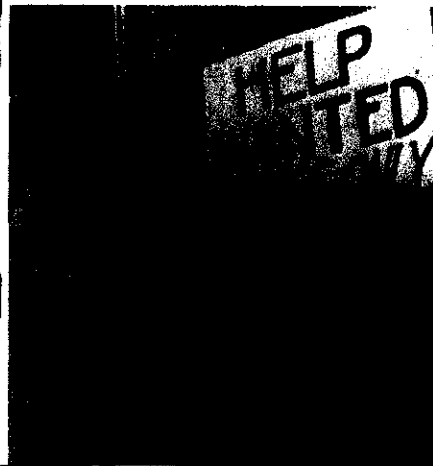
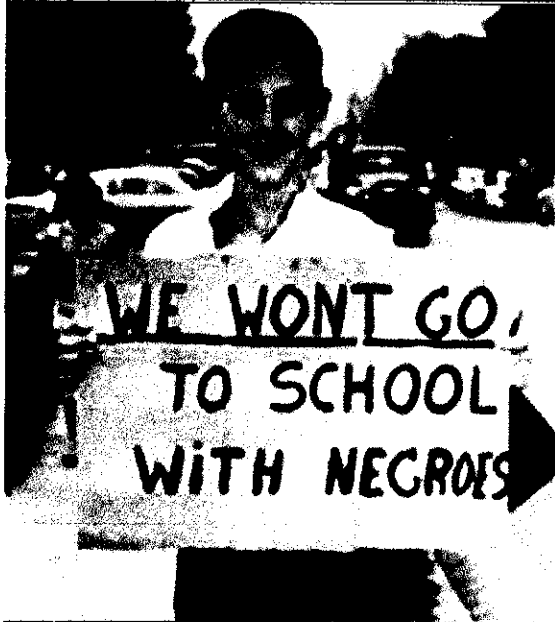


Second Wall



Right Wall

# Appendix C - Second Hallway



Appendix D - Room 3



*Best wishes  
Frances*



*Most sincerely -  
Marguerite Chapman*



*The best of luck  
always  
Donna*



## Bibliography

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Creator's Statement For *The Bluest Eye* in Second Life

After reading and discussing *The Bluest Eye* I felt that the most important subject that Toni Morrison wrote about in this book was the issue of white envy in the Afro-American culture. When I was putting together my plan for a Second Life world I decided I wanted to show that struggle but even more than that I wanted to show how having one prominent culture breeds discrimination and segregation in a society. Morrison speaks a lot to this matter in *The Bluest Eye*. The main character, Pecola, desires blue eyes because she believes they will make her beautiful. My design for *The Bluest Eye* world would take the visitor through three rooms and two hallways. The design is to help show how white society in the 1940's caused segregation and the degradation of the Afro-American culture resulting in the self-hatred of many Afro-Americans. I have used examples from Morrison's writing as well as real life examples.

In the first room, I want to show a happy Afro-American culture. I want to show their contribution to America so I start by showing a group of Afro-American soldiers who fought in World War II for the United States. This picture makes people think that the Afro-American community was a welcome part of American society but we know that was not the truth. Even in a time of war,



there was still discrimination among soldiers who were fighting alongside each other. Moving from this picture, the visitor looks at a different wall with two pictures. The first being a school picture from around the time *The Bluest Eye* takes place. The boy looks happy. This gives the illusion that this boy is living a happy life without discrimination or fear. Next to this picture is picture of a young girl. I like this picture because I like to think that she is Pecola. The girl's posture as she sits reminds me of a girl that wants to act older and more sophisticated than her age allows. Moving from this wall, the visitor sees the last wall which has a picture of a group of people gathered around other people playing Chinese Checkers. This picture shows the Afro-American community enjoying each other and shows joy in the action of simply being around each other. *good*

The point of the first room is to show what so much of the world likes to think about when they think of the Afro-American culture in those times but we know that there was more going on in American society. There was a war raging to suppress the Afro-American culture and to state dominance over them. After the third wall, the visitor moves through a doorway into the first hallway.

In the first hall, the visitor starts to see the facade of the first room start to break down. The walls will be covered with different aspects of the Afro-American culture in the 40's. The words will start off being words of accomplishments and strong people in the community and work down to "Civil

Rights". Although this was good thing for the Afro-American community, we start to realize there was a need for a civil rights movement and things were not as clean as they originally seemed. Also in the hall are two quotes from the first chapter of the book. The first is the line of the song that Frieda sings to Claudia when she is sick. The other quote is Claudia's response to the situation after her sister sings to her. Claudia knows she is loved but it is a strained love. Her parents care for her and her sister but because they have so many other things to worry about, the girls are not given the best care possible. These quotes are showing that the sisters are deeply cared about but because of the pressures of society and the discrimination they cause children as well as adults to suffer. ✓

Moving into the second room, we begin to really see the affect that society and its view of beauty have on the Afro-American culture, especially young girls. In this room, I really wanted to show the difference between Pecola and Claudia. Pecola has already embraced societies idea of what beauty is while Claudia is too young to live out these societal views and actually rebels against them. Starting on Claudia's side, I wanted to show a healthier although somewhat sadistic response to the idea of white being the only idea of beauty. There is a large picture of Shirley Temple with an "X" drawn through it. Shirley Temple was societies view of what a beautiful little girl was supposed to be like. They were cute, well behaved, and talented. If you were not like her, then you were not a beautiful little girl. Claudia hated Shirley Temple for this reason and rebelled against the idea of being like Shirley Temple. Claudia also speaks of

destroying white baby dolls. The broken baby doll on the floor is an example of this. The broken dolls is another way that Claudia can rebel against the idea of being like Shirley Temple because Temple would never destroy a toy like that. That was just not what little girls were supposed to do. Little girls were supposed to be nurturing and caring, not destructive. Being destructive was the job of little boys, therefore, Claudia was not only resisting the conformation of societies idea of beauty but also societies ideas of gender roles.

Moving to the next wall, we start to see the move from Claudia's strong stance against societal norms and begin to see the change of thought to conform with society, although not completely. Not yet at least. The second wall shows a picture of Shirley Temple but it is not crossed out and has a quote attached. The quote is speaking to Claudia's distain for Shirley Temple and the power she has over people but it also has her admitting that as she gets older, she too will conform to the desires and envy that society pushes on the Afro-Americans.

Moving to the third wall in the second room, we see Pecola's point of view. The reason for having the Greta Garbo picture on the wall is to show how white society has affected older generations of the Afro-American culture and that in return is being passed down to newer generations. Pecola's mother was obsessed with Greta Garbo and Pecola saw this and learned that in her mother's eyes, being white was more important to her than her own daughter. This reinforced Pecola's desire to have blue eyes because, with blue eyes, her

mother would give her attentions instead of wasting all her time watching movies with white people in them. Having the empty milk jar on the ground is a reference to Pecola drinking all the milk when she was staying with Frieda and Claudia. There is almost a connection to cannibalism in Pecola's desire to consume mass amounts of milk. The idea behind cannibalism in most cultures with it, is that consuming the parts of other people that you want will give you those attributes. When Pecola drank the milk, she was either consciously or unconsciously trying to become white by consuming something that is white. <sup>OK</sup>

After this side of the room, the visitor moves through another doorway into the second hall.

In the second hall, all pretenses have been removed and we start to see what the Afro-American culture was facing in the 1940's. I love the Dick and Jane quote and I would show all three versions of the quote on one wall, taking up the entire wall. On the other wall, I really want to show the segregation and its affects. I want to make a real emphasis on the Jim Crow law that was active in this time. Most of the pictures would show ways that the Afro-American community was segregated and put down just because of the color of their skin. I would also show pictures from the tests they have that show black children choosing white dolls as being beautiful over black dolls. The Jim Crow laws puts in the minds of the Afro-American community that they are not important and continues to reinforce that because of the color of their skin, they are less

important and not beautiful. At the end of the hall is the final door leading into the third room.

My idea for the third room was to make it seem as though it were a shrine <sup>good</sup> to big actresses of the time. These actresses were and still are society's view of beautiful. They were the face of every <sup>such as?</sup> product. They were on every screen and in every picture. The Afro-American community was never portrayed as beautiful. Having the room completely white with all these pictures covering every wall will make the two dark shadows stand out in the room even more. These shadows portray Pecola and her imaginary friend in the end of the story. The taller shadow will have blues. I want the shadow with the blue eyes to make the visitor feel uncomfortable, I want the eyes to stand out and to seem odd. I want the eyes to follow the visitor and push them to leave but when they turn to leave there is no door. I want them trapped in the room like Pecola is trapped in her mind because she cannot handle not being society's idea of beautiful any longer.

The final room is supposed to be a representation of Pecola's mind. It is supposed to feel uncomfortable and seem strange because this forces the visitor to look at and questions societies ideas of what beauty is and what society should say beautiful is.