In Song of Solomon, the plot is centered around the story of Milkman. Milkman's dead and the physical and psychological journey he embarks on to discover himself, to discover his family's history, and to transform into a better person.

One of the most significant moments in the story takes place at the very end of the novel. After returning home from his trip to search for gold, Milkman realizes the damage he has done to his town and family cannot be undone. However, in a last effort to set things right, Milkman returns to the cave to bury his grandfather's bones with Pilate. As they are about burying the bones, Guitar accidentally shoots Pilate, though he was aiming for Milkman. The moment that Pilate is shot marks the end of Milkman's journey and his ultimate psychological and moral development.

In the moment that Pilate is shot, Milkman realizes the unconditional...