

“Melanctha”: points of reference

Page numbers are from Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives* (Mineola, NY: Dover, 1994). To match page numbers to another edition, find the pages with the passages below and note their page numbers in the other edition. Remember that electronic texts are searchable (any sequence of four or five words is generally enough to locate a passage uniquely). All passages are the beginnings of paragraphs. They are mostly at five-page intervals in the Dover ed.; exceptions are marked by “[sic].”

47 Rose Johnson made it very hard to bring her baby to its birth.

52 John was a very decent colored coachman.

57 But when Melanctha was alone, and she was so, very often, she would sometimes come very near to making a long step on the road that leads to wisdom.

62 Melanctha Herbert was now, all alone, in Bridgepoint. She lived now with this colored woman and now with that one

67 Dr. Campbell soon got through with his reading, in the old newspapers, and then somehow he began to talk along about the things he was always thinking.

72 Dr. Campbell came in every day to see ‘Mis’ Herbert. ‘Mis’ Herbert, after that night they watched together, did get a little better

77 Jeff Campbell paused on this, and he was silent with the power of Melanctha’s meaning.

82 Jeff Campbell, all these months, had never told his good mother

87 Jeff saw Melanctha every day now.

92 Then Jeff turned to look and see her. She was lying very still there by him, and the bitter water on her face was biting.

97 These days were not very joyful ones now any more, to Jeff Campbell, with Melanctha.

102 From now on, Jeff had real torment in him.

108 [sic] “As you will, Melanctha Herbert,” cried Jeff Campbell, and he rose up, and he thundered out a black oath

112 Melanctha Herbert now always had a lot of friends around her.

118 [sic] Melanctha Herbert had just been getting thick in her trouble with Jeff Campbell, when she went to that church where she first met Rose, who later was married regularly to Sam Johnson.

122 And now Jeff knew there was a man Melanctha met very often

127 And so Rose and Sam Johnson were regularly married, and Rose sat at home and bragged to all her friends

132 It was lucky for Melanctha Herbert that Rose Johnson was coming now to have her baby.

137 At first Sam tried a little to defend Melanctha, and Sam always was good and gentle to her

141 [sic] FINIS