**Extended Definition “The Wife-Beater”, Gayle Smith**

Everybody wears them. The Gap sells them. Fashion designers Dolce and Gabbana have lavished them with jewels. Their previous greatest resurgence occurred in the 1950’s when Marlon Brando’s Stanley Kowalski wore one in Tennesse Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire*: They are still all the rage.

What are they called?

The name is the issue. They are known as “wife-beaters.”

A Web search shows that kids nationwide are wearing the skinny-ribbed with T-shirts that can be worn alone or under another shirt. Women have adopted them with the same gusto as men. A search of boutiques shows that these wearers include professionals who wear them, adorned with designer accessories, under their pricey suits. They are available in all colors, sizes and price ranges.

Wearers under the age of 25 do not seem to be disturbed by the name. But I sure am.

**Extended Definition: Excerpt** **from “How It Feels to be Colored Me”, Hurston: Here, Hurston defines a concept by saying what it is not.**

But I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all. I do not belong to the sobbing school of Negrohood who hold that nature somehow has given them a lowdown dirty deal and whose feelings are all hurt about it. I have seen that the world is to the strong regardless of a little pigmentation more or less.