

Chapters 1-6 Study Guide Questions

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Directions: Save your own copy of this document first and add your name to the title. Then answer the questions as you read. Be thoughtful and include specifics from the text. Use complete sentences, correct grammar, and [blue ink](#).

Chapter 1

1. Hurston begins the book with an extended metaphor. What are the dreams of men? How are they different from the dreams of women? Who doesn't get disappointed?
2. Describe the townspeople's feelings towards Janie. What do they think she did? What do they men notice about her? The women?
3. The author makes a big deal about Janie's black *rope* of hair. When is her hair mentioned? What might Janie's hair symbolize? Follow this symbol and notice when it appears through the book.
4. How would you describe the relationship between Pheoby and Janie? Provide an example from the text that supports this description and explain how it supports your description.
5. Why does Sam say people want to go to heaven? What does his description help us to infer about the town where the first chapter is set?

Chapter 2

1. What can you infer about Janie from the descriptions of her early life? Provide three facts about her childhood to support your description.
2. What does the pear tree represent and how does Hurston extend this metaphor and symbol?
3. Compare Nanny's vision of the white man to her vision of the role of the black woman.

4. Compare and contrast Nanny and Janie's feelings on the need for Janie to get married.

5. What happened to Janie's mom? How did the incident affect her?

Chapter 3

1. What is Nanny's attitude toward love? What can you infer about her character from this? And why is love a "prong" that black women get "hung on"?

2. Why is Nanny so sold on Logan Killicks? What is the impact of his having a house, sixty acres, and the only organ in town.

3. Why does Janie wait by the gate? What does this tell us about her as a character?

4. What made Janie a woman? How did this make her a woman? What does it tell us about her values?

Chapter 4

1. How has Logan's and Janie's relationship changed since Chapter 2? Provide at least one detail from Chapter 2 and one detail from Chapter 3 and explain how they each support your answer.

2. In Chapter 4, we are introduced to Joe Starks. How would you describe him? Include at least two details from the chapter and explain how they support your answer.

3. What did Joe offer Janie? Do you think Janie will like this? Why or why not?

4. Do you think Joe will keep his promises to Janie? Why or why not?

Chapter 5

1. How does Joe treat Janie in this chapter? What does/doesn't he allow her to do? Include at least two details from the chapter in your explanation.

2. How does Janie feel about her marriage to Joe? Include at least two details in your explanation.

3. How is Janie treated as the Mayor's wife? Include at least two details in your explanation.

4. What do the townspeople notice about the way Joe treats Janie? Again, include at least two details in your explanation

Chapter 6

1. How do the men at the store tease Matt Bonner about his mule?

2. Why is Janie having such a hard time managing the store?

3. Why does Starks buy the mule from Matt Bonner?

4. Why doesn't Joe allow Janie to go to the "draggin'-out"?

5. Why does Joe think that Janie is being ungrateful?