

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* Summer Reading**
English III

Novel: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Assignment: Read Hurston's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and pay special attention to Janie's activities, plus the word choices used by the author to express these adventures. Watch the dialect of the characters carefully and try to remember that every character should have four qualifications: the ability to be believable, to be motivated, to be consistent, and to be able to change. Without the fourth qualification the character cannot endure and may be destroyed mentally, physically or both. Now as you read, you will annotate in the novel for discussion purposes the changes that you see happening to Janie and her world by examining the word choices and techniques of the author.

Document the following from your novel; include a key legend of your color annotations for this assignment in the front of your novel.

1. Find support for any changes occurring to Janie or her world. For each chapter highlight the quotations that support or show changes in Janie's lifestyle, and her attitude toward self, plus friends and family. One question per chapter will not be sufficient—at least three per chapter. Make notes/questions in your margin in regards to quotations highlighted.
2. Look closely for any references to "gates" in each chapter. Highlight these in your novel. Then, try to decide what these gates must represent or symbolize, and how they change/influence Janie's life.
3. Look for colors in each chapter. Highlight the color in your novel; Explain what each color might symbolize with regard to the character's development.
4. At the end of all your annotations of the novel, you will choose one of the essay topics to write about. This essay should be well developed and exhibits your writing skills:

a. After years of polite submission to her male counterparts, Janie gains her voice in Chapters 7 and 8. Prior to her defiance of Joe, Janie observes the way Daisy, Mrs. Bogle, and Mrs. Robbins are treated by the men. These three Eatonville women provide caricatures—quick, stereotyped sketches—of what it means to be a black woman in this small Florida town. In what ways do these caricatures highlight a larger disrespect toward women? How do they show Janie's increasing difficulty with the way men judge women?

b. What is the relationship between Janie's silent voice and her cloistered hair? What happens to Janie after "she tore off [her] kerchief... and let down her plentiful hair" (Chapter 8)? How does her hair reflect her womanhood?