

## Their Eyes Were Watching God

From **‘one of the greatest writers of our time’ (Toni Morrison) - the author of Their Eyes Were Watching God and Barracoon - a collection of remarkable short stories from the Harlem Renaissance With a foreword by Tayari Jones, author of An American Marriage On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too.**

**A PBS Great American Read Top 100 Pick “A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don’t know how to live properly.” —Zadie Smith One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, Their Eyes Were Watching God brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature. These leveled discussion questions about Their Eyes Were Watching God require students to read closely, make connections, and share their analyses. Included are leveled comprehension questions and suggested answers.**

**Their Eyes Were Watching God**  
**Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick**  
**BookCaps Study Guide**  
**Common-Core Aligned Teacher Materials and a Sample Chapter**

Presents a collection of essays by leading academic critics on the structure, characters, and themes of the novel, an early classic work on the lives of African American women written in the 1930s.

The original CliffsNotes study guides offer expert commentary on major themes, plots, characters, literary devices, and historical background. The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and historical elements that complement the classic, familiar format. In CliffsNotes on Their Eyes Were Watching God, you discover the work of one of the 20th century’s first African-American female authors—Zora Neale Hurston. In the novel, Janie Crawford returns to her hometown in Florida and relates to her friend Pheoby the tragic story of her 40-year love and respect. Chapter summaries and commentaries take you through Janie’s journey, and critical essays give you insight into the novel’s themes and structure, as well as Hurston’s use of figurative language and dialect. Other features that help you study include Character analyses of the main characters A character map that graphically illustrates the relationships among the characters A section on the life and background of Zora Neale Hurston A review section that tests your knowledge A Resource Center full of books, articles, films, and Internet sites literature or modern-day treasure—you’ll understand it all with expert information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides.

An overview of the novel features a biographical sketch of the African American author, a list of characters, a summary of the plot, and critical and analytical views of the work.

An analysis of the literary values of Hurston’s novel, as well as its reception--from largely dismissive reviews in 1937, through a revival of interest in the 1960s and its recent establishment as a major American novel.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

One Door Away from Heaven

A Teacher’s Guide to Their Eyes Were Watching God

Seraph on the Suwanee

A rich sourcebook of materials on African-American folk culture, history, and society that illuminates the novel.

Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 2.3, University of Tübingen, course: PS II Literatur , 5 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In Their Eyes Were Watching God, written by Zora Neale Hurston, marriage is a central topic. The main character of the book, Janie, is married three times. Her husbands are very different from one another which is also reflected in the relationship between her and her husbands in each marriage. Nevertheless, all three marrie time. The following essay thus will explore and analyze these marriages. Afterwards it will compare them with regard to three common gender roles of that time, and it will show that all three marriages are more or less built upon these common gender-specific ideas.

The perfect companion to Zora Neale Hurston’s “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” this study guide contains a chapter by chapter analysis of the book, a summary of the plot, and a guide to major characters and themes. BookCap Study Guides do not contain text from the actual book, and are not meant to be purchased as alternatives to reading the book. We all need refreshers every now and then. Whether you are a student trying to cram for that big final, or someone just trying to understand a book more, BookCap \* Zora Neale Hurston’s masterpiece is perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature.

A Casebook

Zora Neale Hurston and Their Eyes Were Watching God

Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God

A Novel - with an Introduction by Holly Eby

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER USA TODAY BESTSELLER NATIONAL INDIE BESTSELLER THE WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, NPR, Slate, and Oprah Magazine #1 Library Reads Pick—October 2020 #1 Indie Next Pick—October 2020 2020 BOOK OF THE YEAR (2020) FINALIST—Book of The Month Club A “Best Of” Book From: Oprah Mag \* CNN \* Amazon \* Amazon Editors \* NPR \* Goodreads \* Bustle \* PopSugar \* BuzzFeed \* Barnes & Noble \* Kirkus Reviews \* Lambda

Literary \* Nerdette \* The Nerd Daily \* Polygon \* Library Reads \* io9 \* Smart Bitches Trashy Books \* LiteraryHub \* Medium \* BookBub \* The Mary Sue \* Chicago Tribune \* Syfy Wire \* Powells.com \* Bookish \* Book Riot \* Library Reads Voter Favorite \* In the vein of The Time Traveler’s Wife and Life After Life, The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue is New York Times bestselling author V. E. Schwab’s genre-defying tour de force. A Life No One Will Remember. A Story You Will Never Forget. France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. At the Publisher’s request, is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

This compelling volume examines Zora Neale Hurston’s work, with a specific look at key ideas related to Their Eyes Were Watching God. Essays discuss a variety of topics, including whether the novel can be viewed as an example for all women, whether it still relevant today, and whether it proves that romantic fantasies cannot last. The book also explores contemporary perspectives on women’s issues, such as the idea of women creating their own model of a female hero and the impact of white steretyo modern black women.

This ebook edition contains a special preview of Dean Koontz’s The Silent Corner. Hailed as “America’s most popular suspense novelist” (Rolling Stone) Dean Koontz has entered a rich new phase of his writing career that is yielding his most imaginative, meaningful, and popular work yet. At the height of his powers as a literary craftsman, he has won the acclaim of critics as well as the allegiance of millions of fans the world over, transforming the greatest fears and hopes of our time into masterworks of dazzling originality and emotional resonance. Now, with the stunning depth and virtuosity of his storytelling, he brings to readers one of his most gripping and richly imagined novels to date—an intoxicating story of adventure and suspense, mystery and revelation, told with humor, heart, and high art. One Door Away From Heaven In a dusty trailer park on the far edge of the California dream, Micheline Bellsong contemplates the choices she has made. At twenty-eight, she wants to change the direction of her troubled life but can’t find way—and until a new family settles into the rental trailer next door and she meets the young girl who will lead her on her deformed left leg, and her withered left hand, and her withered left hand, nine-year-old Leilani Klunk radiates a buoyant and indomitable spirit that inspires Micky. Beneath Leilani’s effervescence, however, Micky comes to sense a quiet desperation that the girl dares not express. Leilani is little more than a child and the girl’s stepfather, Preston Maddox, is educated but threatening. He has moved the family from place to place as he fanatically investigates UFO sightings, striving to make contact, claiming to have had a vision that by Leilani’s tenth birthday aliens will either heal her or take her away to a better life on their world. Slowly, ever more troubling details emerge in Leilani’s conversations with Micky. Most chilling is Micky’s discovery that Leilani had an older brother, also disabled, who vanished after Maddox took him into the woods one night and is now ‘gone to the stars.’ Leilani’s tenth birthday is approaching. Micky is convinced the girl will be dead by that day. While the child-protection bureaucracy gives Micky the runaround, the Maddox family slips away into the night. Micky sets out across America to track and find them, alone and afraid but for the first time living for something bigger than herself. She finds herself pitted against an adversary, Preston Maddox, as fearsome as he is cunning, passion and disregard for danger with which Micky pursues her quest bring her side to a burned-out detective who joins her on a journey of incredible peril and startling discoveries, a journey through terrible darkness to unexpected light. One Door Away From Heaven is an incandescent mix of suspense and humor, fear and wonder, a story of redemption and timeless wisdom that will have readers cheering. Filled with tragedy and joy, with terror and hope, it solidifies Dean Koontz’s reputation as one of the foremost storytellers of our time. This is Dean Koontz at his very best—and it doesn’t get any better than that.

‘Their Eyes Were Watching God is one of the very greatest American novels of the 20th century. It is so lyrical it should be sentimental: It is so passionate it should be overwrought, but it is instead a rigorous, convincing and dazzling piece of prose, as emotionally satisfying as it is impressive. There is no novel I love more’ ZADIE SMITH ‘She was stretched on her back beneath the pear tree soaking in the alto chant of the visiting bees, the gold of the sun and the panting breath of the breeze when the inaudible voice of her came to her’ When, at sixteen, Janie is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to and old man with sixty acres. Jane endures two stifling marriages before she finally meets the man of her dreams - who offers not diamonds, but a packet of flowering seeds. WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ZADIE SMITH Books included in the VMC 40th anniversary series include: Frost in May by Antonia White: The Collected Stories of Grace Paley: Fire from Heaven by Mary Renault: The Magic Toyshop Angela Carter: The Weather in the Streets by Rosamond Lehmann: Deep Water by Patricia Highsmith: The Return of the Soldier by Rebecca West: Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston: Heartburn by Nora Ephron: The Dud Avocado by Elaine Dundy: Memento Mori by Muriel Spark: A View of the Harbour by Elizabeth Taylor: and Faces in the Water by Janet Frame

CRITICAL INSIGHTS

An Instructional Guide for Literature

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston (SuperSummary)

Their Eyes Were Watching God - Analysis of the main conflicts and some metaphorical images of the novel

Widely regarded as the key text of the Harlem Renaissance, this landmark anthology of fiction, poetry, essays, drama, music, and illustration includes contributions by Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, James Weldon Johnson, and other luminaries.

This instructional guide encourages students to explore and analyze this classic novel through lessons that are fun and challenging. With various methods for assessing comprehension, this invaluable classroom resource offers strategies for cross-curricular activities as students build an in-depth understanding of complex literature. Text-dependent questions help students analyze the book by using higher-order thinking skills, and activities require students to use textual evidence as they revisit passages for deeper critical analysis. Through close reading and text-based vocabulary practice, this tool will guide teachers in a rich and deep exploration of the text with ways to add rigor with complex literature.

"An introduction to Zora Neale Hurston's novel Their eyes were watching God for high school students, which includes biographical background on the author, explanations of various literary devices and techniques, and literary criticism for the novice reader"--Provided by publisher.

Unlock the more straightforward side of Their Eyes Were Watching God with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, which follows the beautiful, intelligent Janie as she attempts to find love and freedom in the Southern USA of the early 20th century. Her first two marriages, to the much older and determinedly unromantic Logan Killicks and the ambitious but self-centred and hyper-critical Joe Starks, both fail to bring her happiness. It is not until she meets Tea Cake, a much younger man with little money to his name, that she finally finds true love with a man who cares about and truly values her. Zora Neale Hurston was one of the most significant African-American writers of the 20th century, and her writing has inspired numerous later authors, including Alice Walker and Toni Morrison. Find out everything you need to know about Their Eyes Were Watching God in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:

• A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

Their Eyes Were Watching God Leveled Comprehension Questions

You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays

Zora Neale Hurston

Understanding Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God

**Sample paper from the course Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1.0, Hawai'i Pacific University, course: 20th Century Women Writers of Color, language: English, comment: 31 Seiten mit doppeltem Zeilenabstand., abstract: Zora Neale Hurston's novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" can be considered "one of the sexiest, most 'healthily' rendered heterosexual love stories in our literature" (Walker, "Zora Neale Hurston" 88). This paper provides information about the outer contexts of the novel, as well as inductive analyses of the novel. The first part of the paper (Ch. 2-5) reveals information about the author and the historical and literary context of the time in which Hurston's novel was published. The second part of the paper (Ch. 6-7) starts off with an analysis of the plot and characters of Their Eyes Were Watching God, and then focuses on the theme of Otherness as it occurs in Hurston's novel. The examinations of the concept of "Otherness," alongside with other terms such as "Dichotomization" and "Stigma," will be based on the concepts that Rosenblum and Travis describe in their work The Meaning of Difference: American Constructions of Race, Sex and Gender, Social Class and Sexual Orientation. One of the most important works of twentieth-century American Literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, Their Eyes Were Watching God, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published -- perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature.**

**The rediscovery of Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God, first published in 1937 but subsequently out-of-print for decades, marks one of the most dramatic chapters in African-American literature and Women's Studies. Its popularity owes much to the lyricism of the prose, the pitch-perfect rendition of black vernacular English, and the memorable characters--most notably, Janie Crawford. Collecting the most widely cited and influential essays published on Hurston's classic novel over the last quarter century, this Casebook presents contesting viewpoints by Hazel Carby, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Barbara Johnson, Carla Kaplan, Daphne Lamothe, Mary Helen Washington, and Sherley Anne Williams. The volume also includes a statement Hurston submitted to a reference book on twentieth-century authors in 1942. As it records the major debates the novel has sparked on issues of language and identity, feminism and racial politics, A Casebook charts new directions for future critics and affirms the classic status of the novel.**

**Their Eyes Were Watching God is a 1937 novel by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. It is considered a classic of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, and it is likely Hurston's best known work.**

**Women's Issues in Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**Detailed Summary, Analysis and Reading Guide**

**The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue**

**Zora Neale Hurston, Haiti, and Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 56-page guide for "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 20 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like The Long Harlem Renaissance and African-American Women and Identity. So much to read, so little time? This brief overview of Their Eyes Were Watching God tells you what you need to know—before or after you read Zora Neale Hurston’s book. Crafted and edited with care, Worth Books set the standard for quality and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed reader. This short summary and analysis of Their Eyes Were Watching God includes: Historical context Cast of characters Chapter-by-chapter overviews Character analysis Themes and symbols Important quotes Fascinating trivia Glossary of terms Supporting material to enhance your understanding of the original work About Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston: Their Eyes Were Watching God is storytelling at its soulful and powerful best. Published nearly a century ago, this classic novel remains unequivocally woven into the fabric of our country’s rich African American heritage, culture, and history. A passionate tribute to the strength and perseverance of the human heart, Zora Neale Hurston’s tale of one woman’s journey to self-actualization and unconditional love at the dawn of the twentieth century is filled with melodic voices and memorable characters, and resonates with symbolism in every chapter. The summary and analysis in this ebook are intended to complement your reading experience and bring you closer to a great work of fiction.**

**Zora Neale Hurston wrote her most famous novel, Their Eyes Were Watching God, while in Haiti on a trip funded by a Guggenheim Fellowship to research the region’s transatlantic folk and religious culture; this work grounded what would become her ethnography Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica. The essays in Zora Neale Hurston, Haiti, and “Their Eyes Were Watching God” persuasively demonstrate that Hurston’s study of Haitian Vodouism informed the characterization, plotting, symbolism, and theme of her novel. Much in the way that Vodouism and its North American derivative Voodoo are syncretic religions, Hurston’s fiction enacts a syncretic, performative practice of reference, freely drawing upon Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian, and Haitian Vodouism mythologies for its political, aesthetic, and philosophical underpinnings. Zora Neale Hurston, Haiti, and “Their Eyes Were Watching God” connects Hurston’s work more firmly to the cultural and religious flows of the African diaspora and to the literary practice by twentieth-century American writers of subscribing in their fictional texts symbols and beliefs drawn from West and Central African religions.**

**Presents a collection of critical essays on Hurston's "Their eyes were watching God."**

**Their Eyes Were Watching God: An Instructional Guide for Literature**

**Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston (Book Analysis)**

**A Reader's Guide to Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents**

**When Janie Starks returns home, the small Black community buzzes with gossip about the outcome of her affair with a younger man**

**One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, Their Eyes Were Watching God brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.**

**Zora Neale Hurston emerged as a celebrated writer of the Harlem Renaissance, fell into obscurity toward the end of her life, yet is now recognized as a great American author. Her novel Their Eyes Were Watching God is popular among general readers and is widely taught in universities, colleges, and secondary schools. A key text of African American and women's literature, it has also been studied by scholars interested in the 1930s, small-town life, modernism, folklore, and regionalism, and it has been viewed through the lenses of dialect theory, critical race theory, and transnational and diasporan studies. Considering the ubiquity of Hurston's work in the nation's classrooms, there have been surprisingly few book-length studies of it. This volume helps instructors situate Hurston's work against the various cultures that engendered it and understand her success as short story writer, playwright, novelist, autobiographer, folklorist, and anthropologist. Part 1 outlines Hurston's publication history and the reemergence of the author on the literary scene and into public consciousness. Part 2 first concentrates on various approaches to teaching Their Eyes, looking at Hurston's radical politics and use of folk culture and dialect; contemporary reviews of the novel, including contrary remarks by Richard Wright; Janie's search for identity in Hurston's all-black hometown, Eatonville; and the central role of humor in the novel. The essays in part 2 then take up Hurston's other, rarely taught novels, Jonah's Gourd Vine,Moses, Man of the Mountain, and Seraph on the Suwanee. Also examined here are Hurston's anthropological works, chief among them Mules and Men, a staple for many years on American folklore syllabi, and Tell My Horse, newly reconsidered in Caribbean and postcolonial studies.**

**Introduction by New York Times bestselling author Henry Louis Gates Jr. Spanning more than 35 years of work, the first comprehensive collection of essays, criticism, and articles by the legendary author of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston, showcasing the evolution of her distinctive style as an archivist and author. “One of the greatest writers of our time.”—Toni Morrison You Don’t Know Us Negroes is the quintessential gathering of provocative essays from one of the world’s most celebrated writers, Zora Neale Hurston. Spanning more than three decades and penned during the backdrop of the birth of the Harlem Renaissance, Montgomery bus boycott, desegregation of the military, and school integration, Hurston’s writing articulates the beauty and authenticity of Black life as only she could. Collectively, these essays showcase the roles enslavement and Jim Crow have played in intensifying Black people’s inner lives and culture rather than destroying it. She argues that in the process of surviving, Black people re-interpreted every aspect of American culture—“modifying[ng] the language, mode of food preparation, practice of medicine, and most certainly religion.” White supremacy prevents the world from seeing or completely recognizing Black people in their full humanity and Hurston made it her job to lift the veil and reveal the heart and soul of the race. These pages reflect Hurston as the controversial figure she was—someone who stated that feminism is a mirage and that the integration of schools did not necessarily improve the education of Black students. Also covered is the sensational trial of Ruby McCollum, a wealthy Black woman convicted in 1952 for killing her lover, a white doctor. Demonstrating the breadth of this revered and influential writer’s work, You Don’t Know Us Negroes and Other Essays is an invaluable chronicle of a writer’s development and a window into her world and mind.**

**Summary and Analysis of Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**A Life in Letters**

**CliffsNotes on Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**Approaches to Teaching Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God and Other Works**

**First published in 1937, this is Hurston's most highly acclaimed novel, a luminous and haunting story about Janie Crawford, a Southern black woman in the 1930s whose journey from a free-spirited girl to a woman of independence and substance, continues to inspire the next generation.**

**This novel of turn-of-the-century white "Florida Crackers" marks a daring departure for the author famous for her complex accounts of black culture and heritage. Full of insights into the nature of love, attraction, faith, and loyalty, Seraph on the Suwanee is the compelling story of two people at once deeply in love and deeply at odds. The heroine, young Arvay Henson, is convinced she will never find true love and happiness, and defends herself from unwanted suitors by throwing hysterical fits and professing religious fervor. Arvay meets her match, however, in handsome Jim Meserve, a bright, enterprising young man who knows that Arvay is the woman for him, and refuses to allow her to convince him otherwise. With the same passion and understanding that have made Their Eyes Were Watching God a classic, Hurston explores the evolution of a marriage full of love but very little communication and the desires of a young woman in search of herself and her place in the world.**

**Presents a guide to reading and understanding Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God," featuring a profile of the author, historical background on the story, a list of characters, a summary of the novel, and chapter analyses and summaries, with study questions and answers, as well as suggested essay topics.**

**Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2005 im Fachbereich Amerikanistik - Literatur, Freie Universität Berlin, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Their Eyes Were Watching God is the story of a woman's life. Protagonist Janie recapitulates her way from youth to her forties and shows the growing-up of a woman in the search for love. On the sideways Zora Neale Hurston points out the life of African-American people and their problems on the turn of the twentieth century until the 1930s. The objective of this paper is to point out the main conflicts and metaphorical images used in the book. As the novel is to some extent a biography of a woman's way to love the first to mention is the eternal conflict between men and women. Like a painter Hurston draws the traditional roles of the sexes and the contradictions of her time – a time of feminine emancipation in all aspects. Emancipation also plays a role in the obvious generation conflict personated in Nanny, Janie's grandmother. Somehow incidental, but flashing now and then, and sharp in her observations Hurston works up the racial issue of black and white living together in the American society around 60 years after slavery has officially ended. These are the more general conflicts of the book, while within the story opens the conflict within the black community. A subtle comparison of the life in Eatonville and the Everglades – inseparable of course from the totally differing feelings of Janie in both places. In the course of the novel Hurston uses strong, picturesque metaphorical language to describe the inner world of Janie's thoughts and feelings. This paper can only give a few examples for these images. The tree image stands for her love life and sexuality - first in bloom when she becomes a woman. The mule stands as a symbol for the submission of women through men.**

**New Essays on Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**A Novel**

**An Interpretation**

For teachers We know that the Common Core State Standards are encouraging you to reevaluate the books that you assign to your students. To help you decide which books are right for your classroom, each free ebook in this series contains a Common Core–aligned teaching guide and a sample chapter. This free teaching guide for Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston is designed to help you put the new Common Core State Standards into practice. “A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don’t know how to live properly.”—Zadie Smith One of the most important and enduring books of the 20th century, Their Eyes Were Watching God brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

“ I am likely to live and die by my own mind,” Zora Neale Hurston told the writer Countee Cullen. Arriving in Harlem in 1925 with little more than a dollar to her name, Hurston rose to become one of the central figures of the Harlem Renaissance, only to die in obscurity. Not until the 1970s was she rediscovered by Alice Walker and other admirers. Although Hurston has entered the pantheon as one of the most influential American writers of the 20th century, the true nature of her personality has proven elusive. Now, a brilliant, complicated and utterly arresting woman emerges from this landmark book. Carla Kaplan, a noted Hurston scholar, has found hundreds of revealing, previously unpublished letters for this definitive collection; she also provides extensive and illuminating commentary on Hurston’s life and work, as well as an annotated glossary of the organizations and personalities that were important to it. From her enrollment at Baltimore’s Morgan Academy in 1917, to correspondence with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Langston Hughes, Dorothy West and Alain Locke, to a final query letter to her publishers in 1959, Hurston’s spirited correspondence offers an invaluable portrait of a remarkable, irrepresible talent.

Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God: Marriage in Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God"

Study Guide

Based on the Book by Zorah Neale Hurston

The New Negro