

**Summer reading  
packet**

**English 12 2009/2010**

**Northwood High  
school**

**Ransome/Lipman**

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**Zora Neale Hurston Their Eyes Were Watching God**

1. When was Their Eyes Were Watching God published?
2. What was significant about this time?
3. Zora uses the small black town where she was born as the setting for her novels. Where is the town located?
4. Who arranges Janie's first marriage to whom and why?
5. Does Janie love Logan Killicks?
6. When the people in Town talked negatively of Janie, what did she do?
7. Who is Pheoby Watson?
8. What metaphor does Janie use to describe the experience of being out in the world?
9. When the story opens is Tea-Cake still around?

**Chapter 2**

1. Who raised Janie?
2. Why was Janie called alphabet?
3. Why did Nanny slap Janie?
4. What did Nanny say about Negro women?
5. Whom did Nanny want Janie to marry?
6. What did Nanny do with her baby?

**Chapter 3 and 4**

1. Describe the marriage dinner of Janie and Logan Killicks?
2. When Janie wants to wonder and think about love, where does she go?
3. Describe the way Janie criticized Logan Killicks.
4. What happened to Nanny?
5. What metaphor did Janie use to describe the world?
6. Describe Joe Starks when Janie first saw him.
7. What did Joe Starks speak for?
8. What does Janie do when she becomes fed up with Logan Killicks?

**Chapter 5**

1. What does Joe Starks plan to do in Eastonville?

2. What does Hicks think about Joe Starks building a post-office and a store?
3. What was one of the first conflicts Jane had with Joe?
4. What took the bloom off Janie and Joe's marriage?
5. What did the townfolks do at the barbecue?
6. What were the folks celebrating?
7. Why didn't Janie like being Mrs. Mayor?
8. What did Joe Starks become in town?
9. What did Joe Starks do to Henry Pitts and why?

## **Chapter 6**

1. What was the main topic of conversation on the porch of the store?
2. Why didn't Joe want Janie to talk with the people?
3. Why didn't Janie enjoy working in the store?
4. Do you think Mayor Starks should have pressured Matt into selling the mule for 55.00?
5. Describe Mrs. Bogle.
6. What happened to the spirit of Joe Starks and Janie's marriage?
7. Why did Joe slap Janie?

## **Chapter 7**

1. Why is Janie feeling so stultified and unfulfilled at the opening of the chapter?
2. What changes have overtaken Joe?
3. Is Janie sympathetic to Joe's feelings? Explain.
4. Where does the omniscient narrator come in and what does it explain?
5. Why did Joe Starks strike Janie?

## **Chapter 8**

1. What did Jody do after he felt that Janie had insulted him?
2. Do you think Jody was justified in being angry with Janie?
3. What was one of the symptoms of Jody's illness?
4. What is the cause of Joe's illness?
5. How does Janie describe death?
6. Why was Janie disturbed with living with Janie?
7. What happened to Jodie?
8. How did Janie feel about Jodie and what did she say after he died?

## **Chapter 9**

1. Describe Joe's funeral.
2. Explain the following expression: "She sent her face to Joe's funeral, and herself went rollicking with the springtime across the world."
3. What did Janie say she felt about her grandmother?
4. What does the following expression mean: "Some people could look at a mud puddle and see an ocean with ships."
5. Why didn't Janie enjoy working in the store and collecting rents after Joe died?

## **Chapter 10**

1. After many people go to Winter Park to see the game, who visits Janie in the store?
2. What is your first impression of Tea Cake?

## **Chapter 11**

1. Describe the way Tea Cake came to visit Janie the second time?
2. Why didn't Hezekiah want Janie going around with Tea Cake?
3. How did Janie describe Tea Cake?
4. How did Tea Cake visit Janie on the fourth day after no seeing her for three days?
5. How does Tea Cake feel about Janie?

## **Chapter 12**

1. What did the townspeople think about Tea Cake's and Janie's relationship? Give specific examples.
2. What does Janie mean by the following remark: "Ah done lived Grandma's way, now Ah means to live mine."

## **Chapter 13**

1. At the opening of the chapter, where is Janie going?
2. When Janie went upstairs to dress at twelve o'clock, what did she discover?
3. What story came to mind when she couldn't find her money?
4. What story did Tea Cake tell Janie, about where he had been?
5. How does Tea Cake think he'll get Janie's money back?

## **Chapter 14**

1. Where are the Everglades located?
2. What did Tea Cake and Janie plan to do in the Everglades?
3. What does it mean to be “on the muck”?
4. Why was Tea Cake’s house so attractive to others?
5. What did Tea Cake and Janie do for entertainment?

## **Chapter 15**

1. How did Nunkie go about getting Tea Cake’s attention?
2. How did Janie react when Nunkie made a play for Tea Cake?

## **Chapter 16**

1. Describe Mrs. Turner’s personality. Why did Tea Cake hate her?  
What did Janie mean by the following remark about Tea Cake: “He kin take most any lil thing and make summertime out of it when times is dull. Then we lives off a dat happiness he made till some mo’ happiness comes along.”
2. Why did Mrs. Turner admire and visit Janie?

## **Chapter 17**

1. What did the workers do Saturday afternoon when their work tickets were exchanged for cash?
2. How did the fight start in Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant?
3. What happened to Mrs. Turner during the melee (confused fight) in the restaurant?

### **ESSAY QUESTION:**

A novel’s plot follows the events of the novel as they lead to a dramatic climax, a tragic realization, or a happy ending. The timing of such events can make a novel predictable and boring, or provocative and riveting. Hurston has made deliberate choices about how to structure and pace the series of events to demonstrate one black woman’s experience in Florida.

**Write your own conclusion to the novel, based on what you have read thus far and chapters 18-20.**

**Remember that Janie narrates her story to Pheoby. Use at least one image or symbol to reach your happy, tragic, or ambiguous ending.**

