

AP ENGLISH IV
ASSIGNMENTS FOR *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*:

1. As you read the novel, be an active reader--mark, highlight, or make notes as you see fit so that you may more easily find specific passages. You will also complete a dialectical journal for the book as follows:

- a. Label a cover sheet with your name, the name of the novel, the author's name, and the date.
- b. Use a ruler to divide subsequent pages neatly into two columns. Label the first column "Quote" and the second "Response".
- c. Copy quotes from the novel that stand out to you in the first column. Include the page number. Highlight in yellow word(s) or phrase(s) that are of interest.
- d. In the second column, write an explanation of why you chose this particular quote. Your explanation may be a statement, or it may be a question that the quote brought up for you.

While you are not limited to only these kinds of quotes, you should focus on quotes that provide characterization, give insights into the themes of the novel, or demonstrate the tone. You should have a minimum of fifty entries; these should cover the entirety of the book. You will be using these quotes for an in-class assignment later.

2. Hurston's novel is part of what is now being labeled as "blues literature." Search the internet for what you consider a fitting definition of the "blues." Consider questions such as whether blues feelings resulted in blues music or the other way around, and whether the term "the blues" is considered singular or plural. Write a five-paragraph essay in which you define the "blues." Use quotes when appropriate, citing your sources in MLA format. Print any information you use; hole-punch and place in your binder.

3. Go to http://www.members.tripod.com/blueslyrics/blueslanguage.htm#the_blues . [If for some reason you are unable to copy and paste this address effectively, Google "Harry's Blues Lyrics Online." Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Blues Language." Saying you could not follow the link will not be an excuse for not completing this assignment.] Search through the blues-specific vocabulary found on this page. Choose at least ten of these words and describe how they are exhibited in *Their Eyes* in one paragraph each.

4. Go to Google.com. Search for "Harry's Blues Lyrics Online." Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Lyrics by Topic." Click on and read the lyrics to the various blues songs found on this page. Choose a "theme song" for each of the following characters: Janie, Nanny, Logan Killicks, Joe Starks, and Vergible "Tea Cake" Woods. Copy the lyrics to the songs you selected, and write a one-paragraph explanation of your selection. BONUS: Two points will be awarded for each song you chose that you can bring to class on CD, up to ten points.