

Their Eyes Were Watching God Syllabus.

1. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God. Janie, Nanny, and Logan Killicks.

Hurston, Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Focus Questions: According to the narrator, what is the difference between men and women? What do people in Eatonville think of Janie? What does Janie think of them? When does Janie realize that she is black? Does race matter to Janie? What does the pear tree symbolize? What do the bees and flowers symbolize? Why does Nanny want Janie to marry Logan Killicks? Who is Janie's father? Why is Janie unhappy with Logan, and what does her unhappiness suggest about her? What does Janie want from life?

2. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Building Eatonville.

Hurston, Chapters 4 and 5.

Focus Questions: What does Janie find attractive about Joe Starks? For Janie, what does Joe Starks represent? For Hurston, what does Joe Starks represent? How does Joe Starks 'win' Janie, and what does this suggest about him. What does Janie's apron represent? What is the state and appearance of Eatonville when Joe and Janie arrive? What are Joe Starks' hopes and dreams, how will he make them come true, and where does Janie fit in Joe Starks' plans? What does the Starks house represent in town? Why does Hurston have Joe and Janie Starks build their own town? What is the significance of this creation? By the end of Chapter Five, is Janie happy?

3. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Mrs. Mayor.

Hurston, Chapter 6

Focus Questions: Why does Joe restrict and confine Janie? What does the yellow mule represent? How does Joe view Janie? What are Joe's views on women? What motivates Joe Starks? What is Jody Stark's 'life philosophy'? What is Janie's view of life?

In-Class Writing, The Starks Marriage: Be prepared to write about Janie's marriage.

4. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Tea Cake and the Escape from Eatonville.

Hurston, Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Focus Questions: By the end of Chapter Seven, how much time has passed? How old is Janie? How does age change Joe Starks? On page 79, how and why does Janie insult Joe? Why is this insult a turning point? What are Janie's last words to Jody Starks? What does the kerchief represent? After Joe's death, how are things better for Janie? Why is she still unsatisfied? What is Janie's first impression of Tea Cake? What is your first impression of Tea Cake? What does the game of checkers represent?

5. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Hurston, Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Janie Loves Tea Cake.

Focus Questions: How old is Tea Cake? What might Janie's hair symbolize? What do Janie's comments at the end of Chapter Eleven mean? How and why does Eatonville society define, judge, confine, and limit Janie? Why is Janie willing to take a "mighty big chance" with Tea Cake? Compare Tea Cake to Joe Starks. Compare Janie's new town in the Everglades to Eatonville. What does Janie love about Tea Cake? How is their relationship unusual or remarkable? How is Tea Cake different and better than the other men Janie has known.

In-Class, TEA CAKE LOVE DAY.

Be prepared to write about and discuss questions such as:

- a) How do you define love? What is your ideal of love?
- b) How do you define the ideal relationship? What do you look for in a relationship?
- c) Would you fall in love with Tea Cake? If so, explain why? Try to think like Janie.

6. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

QUIZ: covers Chapters 1 - 15.

QUIZ. Project Work Day.

7. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Hurston, Chapters 16, 17, and 18.

Turner's Cafe and the Storm.

Focus Questions: Why is Mrs. Turner so concerned about "color and de features"? What does Janie learn from Mrs. Turner about race and racism? Refer back to Charles Chesnutt. How do Chesnutt and Hurston address the color line and racism? Why does Tea Cake slap Janie? Why does the town dislike the Turners and the Turner Cafe? What does the hurricane symbolize? What does Janie learn during and from the storm?

8. Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Hurston, Chapters 19 and 20.

Back to Pheoby.

Focus Questions: How did Tea Cake get rabies? Focus on pages 183 - 184. What accounts for Tea Cake's behavior? What does Janie do to Tea Cake? Why? At the bottom of page 184, for what does Janie thank Tea Cake? When we return to Pheoby, what do we realize? By the end, how has Janie changed? What has she learned? Is Janie happy? What can you learn about life from Janie's story?