

## Their Eyes Were Watching God Study Guide

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.

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

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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. '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 it all came to her' When, at sixteen, Janie is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an 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

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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 by 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 "A new edition with a final chapter written forty years after the explosion."

A Teacher's Guide to Their Eyes Were Watching God

Their Eyes Were Watching God: An Instructional Guide for Literature

A Novel ; with an Introduction by Holly Eley

A Novel

Ask a Manager

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.

The tranquility of Mars is disrupted by humans who want to conquer space, colonize the planet, and escape a doomed Earth.

In a ground-breaking study of Zora Neale Hurston,

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Deborah Plant takes issue with current notions of Hurston as a feminist and earlier impressions of her as an intellectual lightweight who disregarded serious issues of race in American culture. Instead, Plant calls Hurston a "writer of resistance" who challenged the politics of domination both in her life and in her work. One of the great geniuses of the Harlem Renaissance, Hurston stands out as a strong voice for African American women. Her anthropological inquiries as well as her evocative prose provide today's readers with a rich history of African American folk culture - a folk culture through which Hurston expressed her personal and political strategy of resistance and self-empowerment. Through readings of Hurston's fiction and autobiographical writings, Plant offers one of the first book-length discussions of Hurston's personal philosophy of individualism and self-reliance. From a discussion of Hurston's preacher father and influential mother, whose guiding philosophy is reflected in the title of this book, to the influence of Spinoza and Nietzsche, Plant puts into perspective the driving forces behind Hurston's powerful prose.

"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

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acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

Detailed Summary, Analysis and Reading Guide

Everbind Anthology

The Sound of Waves

Zora Neale Hurston and Their Eyes Were Watching God

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

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

This compelling volume examines Zora Neale Hurston's life and writings, 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 stereotypes on modern black women.

From the creator of the popular website *Ask a Manager* and New York 's work-advice columnist comes a witty, practical guide to 200 difficult professional conversations—featuring all-new advice! There 's a reason Alison Green has been called “ the Dear Abby of the work world. ” Ten years as a workplace-advice columnist have taught her that people avoid awkward conversations in the office because they simply don ' t know what to say. Thankfully, Green does—and in this incredibly helpful book, she tackles the tough discussions you may need to have during your career. You ' ll learn what to say when • coworkers push their work on you—then take credit for it • you accidentally trash-talk someone in an email then hit “ reply all ” • you ' re being micromanaged—or not being managed at all • you catch a colleague in a lie • your boss seems unhappy with your work • your cubemate ' s loud speakerphone is making you homicidal • you got drunk at the

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holiday party Praise for Ask a Manager “ A must-read for anyone who works . . . [Alison Green ’ s] advice boils down to the idea that you should be professional (even when others are not) and that communicating in a straightforward manner with candor and kindness will get you far, no matter where you work. ” —Booklist (starred review) “ The author ’ s friendly, warm, no-nonsense writing is a pleasure to read, and her advice can be widely applied to relationships in all areas of readers ’ lives. Ideal for anyone new to the job market or new to management, or anyone hoping to improve their work experience. ” —Library Journal (starred review) “ I am a huge fan of Alison Green ’ s Ask a Manager column. This book is even better. It teaches us how to deal with many of the most vexing big and little problems in our workplaces—and to do so with grace, confidence, and a sense of humor. ” —Robert Sutton, Stanford professor and author of The No Asshole Rule and The Asshole Survival Guide “ Ask a Manager is the ultimate playbook for navigating the traditional workforce in a diplomatic but firm way. ” —Erin Lowry, author of Broke Millennial: Stop Scraping By and Get Your Financial Life Together

"One of the most adorable, big-hearted, charming books in existence." --Becky Albertalli, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda What If It's Us meets To All the Boys I've Loved Before in this upbeat and heartfelt boy-meets-boy romance that feels like a modern twist on a '90s rom-com! Everyone knows about the dare: Each week, Bryson Keller must date someone new--the first person to ask him out on Monday morning. Few think Bryson can do it. He may be the king of Fairvale Academy, but he's never really dated before. Until a boy asks him out, and everything changes. Kai Sheridan didn't expect Bryson to say yes. So when Bryson agrees to secretly go out with him, Kai is thrown for a loop. But as the days go by, he discovers there's more to Bryson beneath the surface, and dating him begins to feel less like an act and more like the real thing. Kai knows how the story of a gay boy liking someone straight ends. With his heart

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on the line, he's awkwardly trying to navigate senior year at school, at home, and in the closet, all while grappling with the fact that this "relationship" will last only five days. After all, Bryson Keller is popular, good-looking, and straight . . . right? Drawing on his own experiences, Kevin van Whye delivers an uplifting and poignant coming-out love story inspired by classics like Venio Tachibana and Rihito Takarai's manga *Seven Days: Monday-Sunday* and the '90s rom-com *She's All That*. Readers will root for Kai and Bryson to share their hearts with the world--and with each other.

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

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

BookCaps Study Guide

Understanding Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*; and 19 Related Readings

Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the

subject English 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:

Nora Zeale 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

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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*.

Created by Harvard students for students everywhere, SparkNotes books contain complete plot summaries and analyses, key facts about the featured work, analysis of the major characters, suggested essay topics, themes, motifs, and symbols, and explanations of important quotations.



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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.

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-

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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.

A Casebook

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

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

Study Guide

The Martian Chronicles

Provides a brief summary about the story Their eyes were watching God.

Set in a remote fishing village in Japan, The Sound of Waves is a timeless story of first love. A young fisherman is entranced at the sight of the beautiful daughter of the wealthiest man in the village. They fall in love, but must then endure the calumny and gossip of the villagers.

Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2005 im Fachbereich Amerikanistik - Literatur, Freie Universität Berlin,

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Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Their Eyes Were Watching God is the story of a woman's life.

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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."

# Online Library Their Eyes Were Watching God Study Guide

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, BookCaps can help. We are a small, but growing company, and are adding titles every month.

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

A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents

Long Lost

Zora Neale Hurston

Date Me, Bryson Keller

*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.*

*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-*

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*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!*

*Great middle greats fiction.*

*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.*

*Hiroshima*

*Every Tub Must Sit on Its Own Bottom*

*Summary and Analysis of Their Eyes Were Watching*

# Online Library Their Eyes Were Watching God Study Guide

## *God*

### *An Instructional Guide for Literature*

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

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.

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, although well received in its own day, was largely forgotten until the 1970s. The same thing was true of its author, who died in abject poverty. Fortunately, both this novel and most of Hurston's other works were eventually rediscovered, and *Their Eyes* is now seen as one of the most important books in twentieth-century American literature. This volume explores the book from numerous and diverse perspectives, including race, gender, and class; place it in a variety of historical and intellectual contexts; and give full attention to its remarkable artistry.

When Janie Starks returns to her rural Florida home, she reminisces to her best friend, Pheoby, about her marriages and her relationship with a younger man. Reissue. 25,000 first printing.

“Perfect to be read late into the night.”—Stefan Bachmann, internationally bestselling author of *The Peculiar* “A spooky sisterhood mystery that is sure to be a hit with

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readers.”—School Library Journal (starred review) “Grab a flashlight and stay up late with this one.”—Kirkus Reviews

Once there were two sisters who did everything together. But only one of them disappeared. New York Times–bestselling author Jacqueline West’s *Long Lost* is an atmospheric, eerie mystery brimming with suspense. Fans of Katherine Arden’s *Small Spaces* and Victoria Schwab’s *City of Ghosts* series will lose themselves in this mesmerizing and century-spanning tale. Eleven-year-old Fiona has just read a book that doesn’t exist. When Fiona’s family moves to a new town to be closer to her older sister’s figure skating club—and far from Fiona’s close-knit group of friends—nobody seems to notice Fiona’s unhappiness. Alone and out of place, Fiona ventures to the town’s library, a rambling mansion donated by a long-dead heiress. And there she finds a gripping mystery novel about a small town, family secrets, and a tragic disappearance. Soon Fiona begins to notice strange similarities that blur the lines between the novel and her new town. With a little help from a few odd Lost Lake locals, Fiona uncovers the book’s strange history. Lost Lake is a town of restless spirits, and Fiona will learn that both help and danger come from unexpected places—maybe even from the sister she thinks doesn’t care about her anymore. New York Times–bestselling and acclaimed author Jacqueline West weaves a heart-pounding, intense, and imaginative mystery that builds anticipation on every page, while centering on the strong and often tumultuous bond between sisters. Laced with suspense, *Long Lost* will fascinate readers of Trenton Lee Stewart’s *The Secret Keepers* and fans of ghost stories.

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
INTRODUCTION to *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING*

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GOD.

,Their Eyes Were Watching God - Analysis of the Main Conflicts and Some Metaphorical Images of the Novel  
How to Navigate Clueless Colleagues, Lunch-Stealing Bosses, and the Rest of Your Life at Work

New Essays on Their Eyes Were Watching God

***\* Zora Neale Hurston's masterpiece is perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature.***

***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 visual 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 search for 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 Classic literature or modern-day treasure—you'll understand it all with expert***



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**information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides.**

***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.***

***“ I mean 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, irrepressible talent.***

***A Life in Letters***

***Their Eyes Were Watching God***

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

## Online Library Their Eyes Were Watching God Study Guide

### ***The Philosophy and Politics of Zora Neale Hurston Based on the Book by Zora Neale Hurston***

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

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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.

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.

"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.

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

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marriages show certain similarities which correspond to common gender roles of this 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.

### Critical Insights: Their Eyes Were Watching God

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

Common-Core Aligned Teacher Materials and a Sample Chapter

A leading novel in the canon of African American literature—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 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

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most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African American literature.

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 Voudoun informed the characterization, plotting, symbolism, and theme of her novel. Much in the way that Voudoun 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 Voudoun 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.