

Student Packet

Grades 9–12

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Zora Neale Hurston

NOVEL UNITS[®]



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THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

by
Zora Neale Hurston

Student Packet

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Contains masters for:

- 1 Prereading Activity
- 4 Vocabulary Activities
- 1 Study Guide
- 1 Critical Thinking Activity
- 2 Literary Analysis Activities
- 5 Writing Activities
- 1 Crossword
- 2 Comprehension Quizzes (two levels)
- 2 Unit Exams (two levels)
- Detailed Answer Key

PLUS

Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Harper and Row Perennial Library softcover ©1937 by Zora Neale Hurston. The page references may differ in other editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

ISBN 978-1-60878-446-2

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Publisher Information
For a complete catalog, contact—

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P.O. Box 97
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

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Name _____

12. What is Motor Boat's plan?
13. Why can't Tea Cake and Janie rest at the bridge?
14. What dilemma does the man on the tiny island face?
15. Why does Janie grab the roofing—and what happens?
16. How does Tea Cake rescue Janie from the water—and get bitten by a dog?
- *17. Why do you suppose Janie apparently doesn't complain about being "whipped" by Tea Cake? Should she?
- *18. **Prediction:** What will become of Tea Cake and Janie now? What new problems will they face?

Chapter 19, pages 160-180

1. What sort of work is Tea Cake forced to do after the storm?
2. How are Tea Cake and the others supposed to handle the corpses of white people and black people differently?
3. How does Tea Cake act when he grows sick?
4. What does the doctor tell Janie?
5. Why does Janie shoot Tea Cake?
6. How do Sop and the other friends treat Janie in the first couple of days after the shooting?
7. What decision does the jury reach in Janie's trial?
8. Briefly describe Tea Cake's funeral.
- * 9. Tea Cake's friends say that the outcome of the trial would have been different if a white man had been killed. What do you think?
- *10. **Prediction:** What will Janie do, now that Tea Cake is gone?

Chapter 20, pages 181-184

1. Why do Tea Cake's friends run Mrs. Turner's brother off the muck again?
2. How does Janie know that Tea Cake's friends forgive her?
3. What does Janie do with everything in her house before she moves home again?
4. According to Janie, what are the two things all people have to do for themselves?
- * 5. How do you think Janie feels as she combs her hair in her room, after Pheoby leaves?

Name _____

Directions: Fill in the blanks with a synonym for each word that starts with the given letter. Read down from the arrow to find Tea Cake's real name.



1. massive
2. homage
3. defilement
4. cherubim
5. turbulent
6. fracas
7. fetid
8. fanatical
9. smite
10. dishevelment
11. peevish
12. deftly
13. affront

Tea Cake's real name: _____

Student Worksheets

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Name _____

Directions: You are Janie. Your husband Jody constantly puts you down and sometimes strikes you. Write to an advice columnist about what to do. Then have a partner write the columnist’s letter of response.

Before drafting your letters, work with your partner to complete the graphic organizer, below. Add to the list of choices she has and criteria for measuring each. Then rate each choice (1=yes, 2=maybe, 3=no).

Problem: Janie’s unhappiness in her marriage to Jody

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria			4.
	Will this make me happier?	Will this save my marriage?	Will this change Jody's behavior?	
Leave Jody.				
Hit him back.				
Give him the cold shoulder.				
Try harder to please him.				
5.				
6.				

Complete one of the following on the back of your paper:

Dear Gabby:

I’m sure that my problem is one you’ve heard before. My husband...(if your letter is from Janie to Gabby)

OR

Dear “Unhappy in Eatonville:

You are wise to consider all your options before you act. If you... (for Gabby’s response)

Name _____

I. Simile

A **simile** is a figure of speech in which a similarity between two essentially unlike objects is directly expressed, using words such as "like", "as," or "so." For example: "red as blood."

- a) Find and write down each of the similes described below.
- b) Tell what qualities are being emphasized by the comparison.

1. (p. 30, Logan is compared to a bear.)

- a) _____
- b) _____

2. (p. 54, Matt is compared to a hen.)

- a) _____
- b) _____

3. (p. 81, In separate passages, Jody's sounds are compared to a hog's, a bass drum's, a trombone's.)

- a) _____

- b) _____

Student Worksheets