

Pre-IB English  
Summer Reading Assignment  
English II, Grade 10

Reading a novel for the first time expands the student's understanding of life. It develops an awareness of characters, settings, conflicts, tones, writing techniques, and themes that bring intrigue. Thoreau, one the great world writers, believed, "Life is but the stream I go a fishin' in." By examining his theory on life, which is an example of a perfect metaphor, the reader can see that life travels along a path similar to that of a stream and presents comparable obstacles along the way. In like fashion, all literature suggests an understanding of life and shows mankind's connection to nature. As a result, it becomes necessary to analyze the literary elements, especially character development and writing technique, to assist in an understanding of the character's "inner self," and possibly the "inner self" of the reader.

Required novel:

[Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) by Zora Neale Hurston. Purchasing the novel with ISBN-13: 978-0-06-083867-6 helps to keep consistency for discussion purposes.

Assignment:

Read Hurston's novel, [Their Eyes Were Watching God](#), and pay special attention to Janie's activities, plus the word choices used by the author to express these adventures. Keep in mind that this is Black fiction and will contain some pain and sorrow. Watch the dialect of the characters carefully and try to remember that every character should have four qualifications: the ability to be believable, to be motivated, to be consistent, and to be able to change. Without the fourth qualification the character cannot endure and may be destroyed mentally, physically or both. Now as you read, you will annotate in the novel for discussion purposes the changes that you see happening to Janie and her world by examining the word choices and techniques of the author. Document the following from your novel; remember all materials will be needed for discussions at the beginning of the school year:

Students please include a key legend of your color annotations for this assignment in the front of your novel.

1. **Find support for any changes occurring to Janie or her world.** For each chapter highlight the quotations that support or show changes in Janie's life style, and her attitude toward self, plus friends and family. One quotation per chapter will not be sufficient—at least three per chapter. Make notes/questions in your margin in regards to quotations highlighted.
2. **Look closely for any references to "gates" in each chapter.** Highlight these in your novel. Then, try to decide what these gates must represent or symbolize, and how they change/influence Janie's life.
3. **Look for colors in each chapter.** Highlight the color in your novel; Explain what each color might symbolize with regard to the character's development.
4. **Then choose one of the two activities below to complete along with your essay:**
  - a. Draw an editorial cartoon that expresses your opinion about a theme/topic in the book, perhaps spousal abuse, relationships, or the equality of men and women. Cite the passages you reference.

- b. Sketch a portrait of one of the characters that illustrates his or her personality. Include representative statements made by the character that helped develop your portrait. Be sure to cite the textual evidence for (MLA) each quotation.
5. At the end of all your annotations of the novel, you will choose one of the essay topics to write about. This essay should be well developed and exhibits your writing skills:
- a. After years of polite submission to her male counterparts, Janie gains her voice in Chapters 7 and 8. Prior to her defiance of Joe, Janie observes the way Daisy, Mrs. Bogle, and Mrs. Robbins are treated by the men. These three Eatonville women provide caricatures—quick, stereotyped sketches—of what it means to be a black woman in this small Florida town. In what ways do these caricatures highlight a larger disrespect toward women? How do they show Janie’s increasing difficulty with the way men judge women?
  - b. What is the relationship between Janie’s silent voice and her cloistered hair? What happens to Janie after “she tore off [her] kerchief... and let down her plentiful hair” (Chapter 8)? How does her hair reflect her womanhood?

**This assignment will be due on Monday, August 12, 2017 (NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED). If you need clarification on any part of this assignment, email me at [mooret@osceola.k12.fl.us](mailto:mooret@osceola.k12.fl.us). Please allow 48-72 hours for response.**