



Image courtesy of photobucket.com

“Sometimes God gits familiar wid us womenfolks too and talks His inside business. He told me how surprised y'all is goin' tuh be if you ever find out you don't know half as much 'bout us as you think yo do. It's so easy to make yo'self out God Almighty when you ain't got nothin' tuh strain against but women and chickens”

Above: Zora Neale Hurston

## *F*inal Essay Prompts

1. Analyze Janie's development as a woman. Do you believe that she ever achieved the love that she envisioned as a youth when she was laying beneath the trees? Be sure to analyze each of her relationships in order to explore her development or lack thereof.
2. Craft an analysis of the difference and importance of the difference between men's and women's dreams in the novel. What is Hurston trying to demonstrate through these differences?
  - Be sure to provide an analysis of “the horizon” and the role it plays in the novel.
3. Analyze gender roles and stereotypes in the novel. What is Hurston showing us about the respective roles that each gender played in the Southern Black society of the 1930's? Are these roles and stereotypes still present today?
4. Discuss the importance of the title to the novel. How does it connect to the rest of the text, and how can it be used to shape our understanding of the novel?
5. Pick a prominent symbol in the text and provide an analysis of the ways in which that symbol relates/speaks to the novel's themes.
6. Compare the female characters in “Sweat” and “The Gilded Six-Bits” with Janie. How are they similar/different?
7. Another prompt of your choice. Must be approved by teacher before beginning.

### Checklist

- \_\_\_ **Introduction** is well crafted, and concisely outlines the paper's central claims, as well as illustrating how those claims will be supported.
  - \_\_\_ Introduction is interesting, and discusses the writer's theme(s) of choice.
  - \_\_\_ Introduction is so clear a 10-year-old would understand it.
- \_\_\_ Each **body paragraph** has a clear subject which helps support thesis.
  - \_\_\_ Each body paragraph makes use of some textual evidence.
  - \_\_\_ Textual evidence provides summary. Student provides **analysis** of text.
  - \_\_\_ Analysis helps clarify/support thesis.
- \_\_\_ **Conclusion** doesn't simply restate the thesis, but opens new questions based upon student's thesis and prior analysis.
- \_\_\_ **Grammar and syntax** are virtually flawless as a result of careful peer editing.
- \_\_\_ **A close reading** of the text adds to the richness of the essay.