

## Unit 4: An American Journey - *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

### Chapter 1

1. What does the metaphor in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph reveal about men's dreams? 2
2. How do the men feel about Janie? 2
3. What do the townspeople say the woman did? 3
4. Why does Pheoby say the people are mad at Janie? 3
5. What is the relationship between Janie and Pheoby? 5
6. Why does Sam say everyone wants to go to heaven? 6
7. How does Pheoby feel about Janie? 7

### Chapter 2

1. Who raised Janie? 8
2. Why was Janie confused about her race? 9
3. Why did the other children treat Janie badly? 10
4. What does Janie imply happened to her mother? 10
5. What does she say happened with her dad that the town's people do not talk about? 10
6. The word lacerating means to cut, why would the author use this word to describe a kiss? What kind of kiss is this in Nanny's opinion? 11
7. What ended Janie's childhood? 12
8. Why does Janie's Nanny want her to get married? 13
9. Who does Nanny say the white man is? 14
10. According to Nanny, what are the black women? 14
11. Why is Nanny so upset with Janie? 15
12. What has Nanny said about her life? 15
13. What do we find out about Janie's mom? (Nanny's baby). 17
14. Why did Nanny's Missis want to have her whipped? 18
15. Why does Nanny say she would not marry anyone? 19
16. What happened to Janie's mom? 19
17. How did the incident affect Janie's mom? 19
18. What might the peach tree symbolized in this chapter? 20

### Chapter 3

1. Read this passage from the novel: "Husbands and wives always loved each other, and that was what marriage meant. It was just so." Do you agree with this statement or disagree? Explain. 23
2. Why is Janie upset? 23
3. Why does Nanny say Janie should be happy in her marriage? 23
4. What did Nanny have to wait for before she could die? 24
5. Why does Janie wait by the gate? 25
6. What made Janie a woman? 25

### Chapter 4

1. How has Logan changed since the beginning of his marriage to Janie? 27
2. How did Janie get the city man's attention? 27
3. What does Janie learn about Joe Starks? 28
4. What is Joe promising Janie? 29
5. How does Logan feel when Janie asks how he would feel if she ran away? 29
6. How did Logan act when Janie asks what he would do if she ran away? 29
7. How does Janie's attitude affect Logan? 31-32
8. Do you think Joe will keep his promises to Janie? 33

### Chapter 5

1. Janie says Joe is portly like \_\_\_\_\_ folks. 34
2. Why are Joe and Janie suited for one another? (Who do they both act like?) 34
3. How do Joe and Janie react to the town and why? 34
4. How do the men react when Joe says he wants to buy more land from Cap'n Eaton? 37
5. Why did Hicks go back to Janie's? 38
6. What did Joe buy? 38
7. What do we know about Janie's appearance? 38
8. "Us colored folks is too envious of one'nother. Dat's how come us don't git no further than us do. Us talks about de white man keepin' us down! Shucks! He don't have tuh. Us keeps our own selves down." Summarize this quote in your own words. 39
9. What is the first thing Joe wants to build? Why? 40

10. What other functions does Joe say a store will have? 40
11. Why did Joe want Janie dressed up? 41
12. How do the people react to Tony's speech? 42
13. What does Joe say about women? 43
14. What does Joe want Janie to help out with? 43
15. How does this contradict what he told her before he married her? 43
16. What is Janie's complaint about the way things are going? 46
17. Who has Joe copied in the building of his house and the way he lives? 46
18. Why did Joe throw Henry Pitts out of town? 48
19. Why is Sim mad at Joe? 48
20. What does Sam Watson say is Joe's defense? 48
21. Which man do you agree with Sim or Sam and why? What are they complaining about here? 48
22. What do we learn Joe makes Janie do? 49
23. How does Joe treat Janie according to the town? 50

### Chapter 6

1. What days does Janie work? 51
2. Why does everyone like to talk about the mule? 53
3. Why doesn't Janie share her mule stories? 53
4. What does Joe say about the townspeople? 54
5. Why does Janie have trouble with the mail? 54
6. How does Janie feel about wearing a head rag? 55
7. Why did Joe make her tie her hair back in the rag? 55
8. Why did Joe buy the mule? 58
9. How does the town react to Janie's speech? 58
10. What was unusual about the mule's death? 60
11. Who is the mule like? 61
12. Why does Joe say he gets mad at the townspeople? 63
13. Sam and Walter get into an argument about nature and caution on pages 64-65. Do you think it is nature or caution that keeps one from burning themselves? Explain. 63
14. Based on Charlie Jones' pick up lines to Daisy, would you say the way men try to pick up women has changed since the writing of this novel? 63
15. How does Janie react to the flirting that is going on in front of the store? 63
16. What does Joe want from Janie? 71
17. What does Janie come to realize about Joe? 72
18. How does Mrs. Tony react to the piece of meat Joe offers her? 74
19. What do we find out about the meat? 74
20. What does Janie say to the men? 75

### Chapter 7

1. The book says Janie got nothing from Joe except what money can buy. What does Janie probably want? 76
2. How has Joe changed? 77
3. Why does Joe always call Janie old now? 77
4. Why does Janie let Joe's comments go without responding to them? 78
5. Summarize what Janie said to Joe in your own words. 79
6. Why was Joe so upset? 80

### Chapter 8

1. Why does Janie think Joe is over-reacting? 81
2. Why does Janie think Joe won't eat her cooking anymore? 82
3. Who told Joe that Janie is trying to poison him? 83
4. What does Janie complain Joe did to keep them from getting close? 87
5. How does Janie feel about Joe when he dies? 87

### Chapter 9

1. How was Janie affected by Joe's death? Look at the quote on page 9. 89
2. What did Janie change after Joe's death? 89
3. What does Janie discover about her feelings for her grandmother? 89
4. Why are so many men coming to visit Janie? 90
5. What feeling does Janie like about being single? 90

### Chapter 10

1. Why didn't the stranger in the store go to the ball game? 95
2. What does the stranger want to do with Janie? 95
3. Why does Janie get so happy about checkers? 95
4. How is the stranger different than Jody? 96
5. What does Janie think of Tea Cake? 99

#### Chapter 11

1. Why has Janie decided not to be nice to Tea Cake anymore?
2. Why isn't Janie mean to Tea Cake when he comes back? 101
3. Why does Janie like going fishing in the middle of the night? 102
4. Why doesn't Hezekiah want Janie walking home with Tea Cake? 103
5. So far, what has Tea Cake asked Janie for? 103
6. What do you think he wants from Janie? 103
7. How does Janie blow off Tea Cake? 104
8. Think about the way Janie thinks about Tea Cake compared to the way Janie thinks about Joe. How has Janie changed? 105
9. Why does Janie say she and Tea Cake should not date? 105
10. What does Tea Cake think about this?
11. What does Tea Cake represent to Janie that she had wanted so many years before? 106
12. How many days is Tea Cake gone after the first time he and Janie get together? 108
13. How does Tea Cake say he feels about Janie? 109

#### Chapter 12

1. How does the town react to Janie being with Tea Cake? 110
2. What kind of activities do Janie and Tea Cake do together? 110
3. Why does Sam think Tea Cake is dating Janie? 111
4. Why do the townspeople think Tea Cake is spending money on Janie?
5. How does Janie feel about going places with Tea Cake? 112
6. Why does Janie say she never went around before?
7. Why does Janie admit she wore the mourning clothes? 113
8. What does Janie tell Pheoby she and Tea Cake are going to do?
9. Why had Janie said that she and Tea Cake need to leave town? 114
10. Do you think Janie is foolish to trust Tea Cake? Explain?

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1. How do we know Janie doesn't entirely trust Tea Cake? 117
2. What is missing? 118
3. What happened to Mrs. Tyler? 119
4. What does Tea Cake say he did with the money? 122
5. How much money does he have left? 124
6. Do you believe his story? Why?
7. Why does Tea Cake say he did not invite Janie? 124
8. How does Tea Cake say he will pay Janie back? 125
9. What happened to Tea Cake? 126
10. What does Tea Cake decide about money? 128
11. Do you think Tea Cake's decision is a good one? How do you think it will affect his relationship with Janie?

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1. How does Janie describe to Everglades? 129
2. What will Tea Cake do for work in the Glades? 130
3. What does Tea Cake want to teach Janie now? 131
4. How well did Janie learn to shoot? 131
5. What kind of people are coming in the pick the beans? 131
6. What do the people do with their money? 132
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8. Why does Tea Cake say he comes home? 133
9. What is Tea Cake's solution to the problem? 133
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11. What did the people think about Janie originally? 133
12. Why did they change their mind about her?
13. How is Janie's life similar to when she was in Eatonville? 134
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4. What is it Janie says she likes about Tea Cake? 141
5. What do you think Mrs. Turner means by class off? 141
6. Why does Mrs. Turner want Janie to meet her brother? 143
7. How does Janie react to that? 143
8. What does Tea Cake decide about Mrs. Turner? 143
9. What does he decide about her restaurant? 143
10. Why does Tea Cake decide not to tell off Mr. Turner? 144
11. Why does Mrs. Turner think it is okay for Janie to be rude to her? 144
12. According to the narrator, whom does Mrs. Turner worship? 145

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2. How do the people react to the whipping? 147
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5. Why does 'Lias say the muck is so dangerous?
6. How does Tea Cake reason the white man is smarter than the Indian?
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8. Who is Big Massa? 159
9. The book says they're no longer asking the white folks what to look for...who are they questioning now? 159
10. What does Tea Cake tell Janie to do with their papers? Why? 160
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2. Why are they separating the whites and blacks? 171
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13. What happened to Tea Cake and why? 184
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15. How did the "colored" people feel about Janie in the courtroom? 185
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17. Why do the people say Janie was not convicted? 189
18. Why did Janie invite Sop to the funeral? 189
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1. Why did they run Mrs. Turner's brother off the muck? 190
2. Why did Janie leave the muck? 191
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