

## ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***

### **Portfolio Project (280 total points)**

#### **Part 1: Chapter log (70 points)**

- Hurston has not provided titles for the chapters in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Your task is to compose a title for ten of the novel's chapters. For each, explain briefly why the title is appropriate (40 points).
- For each chapter you title, choose the quotation (with page number) that you believe is the most significant. Explain why it is important, and connect it to character, conflict, or theme (30 points).

#### **Part 2: Vocabulary acquisition (60 points)**

- During your reading, identify 30 words that are unfamiliar to you and that you would like to incorporate into your own vocabulary. Write the sentence from the book with the word in it and indicate page number in a parenthetical citation. Record the definition(s) of the word and at least one alternate form on the word. If multiple definitions exist, choose the definition(s) that fits the context of the book's sentence. Create a sentence of your own using the new word in proper context. [A list of SAT vocabulary words appearing in the novel is appended to these instructions.]

#### **Part 3: Novel parts and epigraphs (30 points)**

- Focusing on Janie Crawford Killicks Starks Woods's physical and psychological journey, divide the novel into at least three parts, identifying which chapters would be included in each. You should contemplate how the chapters within the sections are connected, what people enter and leave Janie's life, and how the plot changes at these particular points. Explain why you have divided the novel into these parts; then, choose an epigraph (identifying text and author) for each part. Defend your choice by explaining the relevance of the epigraph.

#### **Part 4: Journey chart (40 points)**

- Identify all of the geographical points of Janie's physical journey. Be specific about where she travels, with whom she travels, and what she experiences (particularly life-altering conflicts) at each stage of her travels. For each geographical point, explain the psychological effect of her journey, and provide a supporting quotation from the text.

#### **Part 5: Figurative language (30 points)**

- Hurston employs vivid figurative language (metaphor, imagery, personification, symbol) throughout *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Select six examples of figurative language in the novel that are significant to the novel's larger meaning: record each quotation and its page number, and then explain the meaning and effect of the figurative language.

#### **Part 6: Janie's trial (15 points)**

- The novel is predominantly narrated by a third-person omniscient narrator aligned with Janie's perspective, one that reveals Janie's growth into a bold, independent woman; however, during the crucial trial scene, Janie is strangely silent. Analyze this scene, comparing it to the rest of the novel, and explain what you believe Hurston's purpose to be. Incorporate supporting quotations into your detailed paragraph.

**Part 7: Frame narrative (15 points)**

- The novel begins on the porch with Janie telling her life story to her friend Phoeby. Explain the importance of the frame narrative to the novel and the significance of Janie and Phoeby's relationship. Consider specifically how Phoeby differs from the other members of the community and what that contrast reveals about social acceptance of independence.

**Part 8: Title analysis paragraphs (20 points)**

- Titles often suggest theme(s) of literary works. Is the title *Their Eyes Were Watching God* an apt one? Write a persuasive paragraph in which you assert your position and support it with textual evidence.
- Considering that the publisher and not Hurston suggested this title for the novel, rewrite it. What title do you believe best illuminates the novel's meaning and focus? Compose a second persuasive paragraph in which you create a title and provide textual evidence to show that they title is particularly apt.

**SAT Vocabulary appearing in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*:**

aromatic	feeble	menial	sullen
bellow	ferocity	oblique	supplication
boisterous	fractious	ostentatious	swagger
chasten	futile	peevish	tangible
clamor	gallant	ponderous	temerity
commence	homage	privy	transient
commiserate	indiscriminate	pugnacious	treacherous
compel	insinuation	relentless	trifle
desecrate	lacerate	relish	turbulent
discomfiture	languish	reproof	usurp
disconsolate	lavish	sacrilege	vigorously
dishevelment	malice	scorn	wallow
dwindle	maul	seraph	wanton