





# Nanny's Story

## My Notes

### Reading Chapter 2

As you continue reading Chapter 2, use your double-entry journal to take notes. As you make your journal entries, keep in mind how the values, beliefs, history, arts, and concerns with daily life that characterize the Harlem Renaissance are embodied in Hurston's work.

7. What theme does Hurston introduce with Janie's story about playing with the Washburn children?

8. At the paragraph that begins, "Phoebe's hungry listening helped Janie to tell her story," the narrative point of view begins to change. How does moving to this third-person narration affect your understanding of Janie?

9. Explain the differences in Janie's desires and Nanny's plans for her.

### Making Text-to-Text Comparisons

As Nanny becomes the narrator of her story in Chapter 2, she says to Janie:

"Ah was born back due in slavery so it wasn't for me to fulfill my dreams of whut a woman oughta be and to do. Dat's one of de hold-backs of slavery. But nothing can't stop you from wishin'. Ah didn't want to be used for a work-ox and a brood-sow and Ah didn't want mah daughter used dat way neither. It sho wasn't mah will for things to happen lak they did. Ah even hated de way you was born. But, all de same Ah said thank god, Ah got another chance. Ah wanted to preach a great sermon about colored women sittin' on high, but they wasn't no pulpit for me. Freedom found me wid a baby daughter in mah arms, so Ah said Ah'd take a broom and a cook-pot and throw up a highway through de wilderness for her. She would expound what Ah felt. . .

"Ah wouldn't marry nobody, though. Ah could have uh heap uh times, cause Ah didn't want nobody mistreating mah baby. So Ah got with some good white people and come down here in West Florida to work and make de sun shine on both sides of de street for Leafy.

"Mah Madam help me wid her just lak she been doin' wid you. Ah put her in school when it got so it was a school to put her in. Ah was 'spectin to make a school teacher outa her."

