





# Janie's "Route of Tradition"

Aspects of the Harlem Renaissance	Examples from Chapters 7, 8, or 9	Is it a natural product of the ideas of a specific historical period in American literature?	Is it a departure from the ideas of a specific historical period in American literature?
<p><b>Historical Context</b>  <i>"The conflict which Janie represents, between freedom or passion and restraint or reserve, has a special quality in black fiction. . . . The condition in slavery was the ultimate restriction in which freedom to be oneself is out of the question."</i>                      from "Their Eyes Were Watching God," by Roger Rosenblatt</p>			
<p><b>Philosophy/Beliefs</b>  <i>"Some believed that it was the duty of black artists to picture their race in the 'best' possible light, thereby implying that only middle-class blacks were worthy of being depicted in art. . . . [James Weldon] Johnson shows his acceptance of the lower social classes . . . as a source for literary materials."</i> from "Zora Neale Hurston's America," by Theresa R. Love.</p>			
<p><b>The Arts</b>  <i>"Their Eyes Were Watching God, a novel of intense power, evidences the strength and power of African-American culture. . . . Here characters were outsiders in America because they were the inheritors of a culture different from that of others."</i>                      from "The Outsider," by Addison Gayle, Jr.</p>			

