

**LEARNING STRATEGIES:**

Discussion Groups, Questioning the Text, Note-taking, Double-Entry Journal

My Notes

## Learning Targets

- Prepare for discussion through the use of levels of questions and collecting information from notes and other sources.
- Work collaboratively to synthesize information and develop an understanding of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

## Reading the Remaining Chapters

You have approached the first half of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in a variety of ways, such as shared reading, oral reading, and guided reading. For the second half of the novel, you will move to greater independence, reading on your own and participating in student-led discussion groups.

The remaining chapters of the novel can be divided into these broad chunks:

- Chapters 10–13 (Janie and Tea Cake in Eatonville)
- Chapters 14–19 (Janie and Tea Cake on the Muck)

You will read Chapter 20 with your class in the next activity.

1. For each chapter from 10–19, you will write literal, interpretive, and universal questions to help guide your group discussions.
2. You will meet with your discussion group to create a schedule for reading, making sure that your schedule reflects the timeline provided by your teacher. Make sure that each group member writes down the reading schedule in his or her calendar; it is imperative that each member of the group maintain the reading schedule in order for discussions to be effective.
3. A model of a note-taking guide is provided for you. You may copy this guide into your Reader/Writer Notebook or modify it to fit your discussions; just be sure to take good notes during each discussion. These notes will help you understand the novel and prepare for writing an analytical essay.

## Discussion Group Reading

4. To guide your discussion group’s reading, consider these aspects of the Harlem Renaissance to trace throughout the novel:
  - historical context
  - philosophy/beliefs
  - the arts
  - daily life.

As you discover textual evidence that connects to each of these aspects, write your levels of questions. Be prepared to discuss these points by identifying how the text illustrates Hurston’s reflections of the Harlem Renaissance and her departures from its common themes.

