

# The End of a Long Journey

**LEARNING STRATEGIES:**

Close Reading, Marking the Text, Discussion Groups, Note-taking

My Notes

## Learning Targets

- Identify and evaluate the images and motifs that create the plot structure and thematic design of the novel.
- Participate in a collaborative discussion that synthesizes insights and interpretations.

## Completing the Book

1. Chapter 20 provides the final “frame” of Janie’s story. Hurston chose to organize this novel by having Chapters 1 and 20 frame Janie’s telling of her story to Pheoby. By the end of the novel, if you return to the first scene, you have a much clearer understanding of Janie’s perception of her life and her “grand journey.”

Your purposes for reading this last chapter include:

- to identify the organizational structure of the frame story
- to mark the text for evidence of images and motifs that you recognize as being repeated throughout the novel (use sticky notes).

2. Mark the text and make your final entries into your double-entry journal. Be prepared to share these entries with your discussion group.

## Check Your Understanding

**Writing a Thematic Statement:** Now that you have read the novel and discussed it at length, think about the major themes presented. Write a thematic statement in which you synthesize your understanding of the novel’s literary elements and how they informed your interpretation of the author’s purpose.

Keep in mind the guidelines for writing the thematic statement:

- It is one sentence that states the text’s universal meaning about life, its central insight into life.
- It avoids summarizing the story, stating a moral, or reducing the story to a cliché.
- It can be supported by the imagery, characters, and events in the story.