

# 2015 | Zora Festival!

## *Zora Neale Hurston Creative-Writing Workshop*

### Library Reference Guide

*"I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all."*

*-Zora Neale Hurston*



Library Reference Guide Compiled By:

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Social: <http://www.facebook.com/pagelibrary>

*"Once you wake up thought in a man, you can never put it to sleep again." - Zora Neale Hurston*

Born in Alabama on January 7, 1891, Zora Neale Hurston spent her early adulthood studying at various universities and collecting folklore from the South, the Caribbean and Latin America. She published her findings in *Mules and Men*. Hurston was a fixture of the Harlem Renaissance, rubbing shoulders with many of its famous writers. In 1937, she published her masterwork of fiction, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Hurston died in Florida in 1960. Zora Neale Hurston was discovered by another great writer, Alice Walker. Without her persistence and determination to get Zora's work out to the general public, we would not have been blessed with her literary greatness.

Hurston released her first novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*, in 1934. Two years later, she received a Guggenheim fellowship, which allowed her to work on what would become her most famous work: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). She wrote the novel while traveling in Haiti, where she also studied local voodoo practices.

Despite all of her accomplishments, Hurston struggled financially and personally during her final decade. She kept writing, but she had difficulty getting her work published. Additionally, she experienced some backlash for her criticism of the 1955 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which called for the end of school segregation.

A few years later, Hurston had suffered several strokes and was living in the St. Lucie County Welfare Home. The once-famous writer and folklorist died poor and alone on January 28, 1960, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Fort Pierce, Florida.



#### More Biographical Information

- Biography/Video: <http://www.biography.com/people/zora-neale-hurston-9347659>
- Digital Archive: <http://chdr.cah.ucf.edu/hurstonarchive/>

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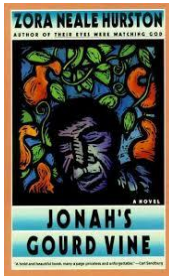
#### *Selected Works By Zora Neale Hurston*

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** is a 1937 novel and the best known work by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. The novel narrates main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny." Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel was initially poorly received for its rejection of racial uplift literary prescriptions. Today, it has come to be regarded as a seminal work in both African-American literature and women's literature. *TIME* included the novel in its 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels published since 1923.



- Read The Book Online: <http://www.istanjinelearning.org/joeschaaf/files/2013/06/Their-Eyes-Were-Watching-God-rmju9.pdf>
- Watch Full Movie via Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teUi8N5ZaNs>
- Study Guide: <http://www.litcharts.com/lit/their-eyes-were-watching-god>

***Jonah's Gourd Vine*** is a novel that depicts the life of John Buddy Pearson, who rises from a poor, abused stepson to a respected minister known for his bad lovemaking activities. John Pearson's story begins as a child in the post-Reconstruction South shortly after World War I. He is a mixed race child born to Amy, who later marries Ned Crittenden. Ned adopts John, but has contempt for Amy's child, especially the fact that he is mulatto. They work as sharecroppers on a farm along the Songahatchee River in Alabama. Ned is a heavy drinker and abusive. One day after witnessing abuse to Amy, John runs away at the age of 16.



- Read Book Sampler: <http://zoranealehurston.com/books/jonahs-gourd-vine>
- Study Guide: <http://www.enotes.com/topics/jonahs-gourd-vine>

***Mules and Men*** this is essentially is a nonfiction account of Zora Hurston's own trip to Eatonville, Florida, taken in order to collect African-American folktales. Her own adventures in Eatonville are occasionally interrupted by fables and songs collected from the people she meets in her travels. The second section of *Mules and Men* is a record of her trip to New Orleans to do field study on the practice of hoodoo. Zora records her experience as an apprentice to several hoodoo doctors and as a hoodoo consultant.



- Read Book Sampler: <http://www.harpercollins.com/web-sampler/9780061350177>
- Read E-Text Edition: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma01/grand-jean/hurston/chapters/siteintroduction.html>

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#### **Zora Neale Hurston, Bibliography | Books**

*The First One* (1927)

*Mule Bone* (1930)

*Jonah's Gourd Vine* (1934)

*Mules and Men* (1935)

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)

*Tell My Horse* (1938)

*Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942)

*Seraph on the Swanee* (1948)

"Journey's End" (*Negro World*, 1922), poetry

"Night" (*Negro World*, 1922), poetry

"Passion" (*Negro World*, 1922), poetry

*Color Struck* (*Opportunity: A Journal of Negro Life*, 1925), play

"Sweat" (1926), short story

"How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (1928), essay

"Hoodoo in America" (1931) in *The Journal of American Folklore*

"The Gilded Six-Bits" (1933), short story

*Jonah's Gourd Vine* (1934), novel

*Mules and Men* (1935), non-fiction

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), novel

*Tell My Horse* (1938), non-fiction

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*Moses, Man of the Mountain* (1939), novel

*Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942), autobiography

*Seraph on the Suwanee* (1948), novel

"What White Publishers Won't Print" (*Negro Digest*, 1950)

*I Love Myself When I Am Laughing...and Then Again When I Am Looking Mean and Impressive: A Zora Neale Hurston Reader* (Alice Walker, ed.) (1979)

*The Sanctified Church* (1981)

*Spunk: Selected Stories* (1985)

*Mule Bone: A Comedy of Negro Life* (play, with Langston Hughes; edited with introductions by George Houston Bass and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.) (1991)

*The Complete Stories* (introduction by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Sieglinde Lemke) (1995)

*Novels & Stories: Jonah's Gourd Vine, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Moses, Man of the Mountain, Seraph on the Suwanee, Selected Stories* (Cheryl A. Wall, ed.) (*Library of America*, 1995) ISBN 978-0-940450-83-7

*Folklore, Memoirs, & Other Writings: Mules and Men, Tell My Horse, Dust Tracks on a Road, Selected Articles* (Cheryl A. Wall, ed.) (*Library of America*, 1995) ISBN 978-0-940450-84-4

*Barracoon* (1999)

*Every Tongue Got to Confess: Negro Folk-tales from the Gulf States* (2001)

*Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters*, collected and edited by Carla Kaplan (2003)

*Collected Plays* (2008)

### Zora Neale Hurston, Bibliography | Film & Television

In 1989 PBS aired a drama based on Hurston's life entitled *Zora is My Name!*

The 2004 film *Brother to Brother*, set in part during the Harlem Renaissance, featured Hurston (portrayed by Aunjanue Ellis).

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* was adapted for a 2005 film of the same title by Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions, with a teleplay by Suzan-Lori Parks. The film starred Halle Berry as Janie Starks.

On April 9, 2008, PBS broadcast a 90-minute documentary, *Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun*, written and produced by filmmaker Kristy Andersen, as part of the *American Masters* series.[59]

In 2009, Hurston was featured in a 90-minute documentary about the WPA Writers' Project titled *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, which premiered on the Smithsonian Channel. Her work in Florida during the 1930s is highlighted in the companion book, *Soul of a People: The WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America*.

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***Information Compiled from the following sources:***

- *Image Number 1 | Page #1:*
- *writingforyou.com*
  
- *Image Number 2 | Page #2:*
- *www.fembio.org*
  
- *Author's Website:*
- *<http://zoranealehurston.com/>*
  
- *Quotes by Author:*
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- *Literary Information about Zora Neale Hurston*
- *<http://www.inspirational-black-literature.com/zora-neale-hurston-mules-and-men.html>*
  
- *Biography:*
- *<http://writingitrightforyou.com/home/2014/03/05/womens-history-month-zora-neale-hurston/>*
  
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God:*
- *[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Their\\_Eyes\\_Were\\_Watching\\_God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Their_Eyes_Were_Watching_God)*
  
- *Jonah's Gourde Vine:*
- *<http://allreaders.com/book-review-summary/jonahs-gourd-vine-39402>*

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*“Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It is beyond me.”*

*Zora Neale Hurston*