

**from *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
By Zora Neale Hurston (United States)**

Directions: This part consists of selections from prose works and questions on their content form and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Questions 1-15 concern *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston.

1. The phrase “starched and ironed her face” (line 1) is best interpreted to mean that Janie
 - (A) kept her composure by doing household chores
 - (B) stiffened her resolve to confront painful reminders of her past
 - (C) erected a façade appropriate to a formal occasion
 - (D) resolved her emotional ambivalence toward her late husband
 - (E) determined to keep her grief under control during the funeral
2. The phrase “rollicking with the springtime across the world” (lines 11-12) evokes Janie’s
 - (A) attitude toward her own future
 - (B) evident panic at being a widow
 - (C) disdain for the other mourners
 - (D) preoccupation with natural events
 - (E) desperation in fleeing from reality
3. The phrase “asking lonesomeness some questions” (lines 27-28) presents an example of
 - (A) soliloquy
 - (B) paradox
 - (C) personification
 - (D) ambiguity
 - (E) dramatic irony
4. Janie had hated her grandmother primarily for
 - (A) physically abusing her when Janie disobeyed
 - (B) encouraging Janie’s self-reliance without much affection
 - (C) insisting that Janie provide for her own support
 - (D) trying to be her friend when Janie wanted only to be alone
 - (E) systematically repressing Janie’s free spirit
5. The image of a “great Journey” (line 37) is a reference to
 - (A) life after death
 - (B) life as a married woman
 - (C) a return to childhood haunts
 - (D) the full experience of life
 - (E) an escape from reality
6. In context, which of the following depends on “the way you see things” (line 42)?
 - (A) Material success
 - (B) Popularity with others
 - (C) The effect of loneliness
 - (D) Your chance of achieving fulfillment
 - (E) Your attitude toward God and the church
7. In context, the phrase “deal in scraps” (line 45) is best interpreted to mean
 - (A) condemn the worthlessness of the world
 - (B) find beauty in unexpected places
 - (C) preserve the values of the past
 - (D) salvage what others might deem useless
 - (E) focus narrowly on practical problems
8. The parable of creation (lines 59-66) serves primarily to
 - (A) provide a contrast to the funeral described earlier
 - (B) illustrate Janie’s self-perception and philosophy of life
 - (C) summarize the early influences on Janie’s behavior
 - (D) emphasize the effect of Janie’s new-found freedom
 - (E) demonstrate differences between Janie’s ideas and the author’s

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9. Janie believed that the very basic characteristic of human nature is
- (A) uncontrollable greed
 - (B) dull practicality
 - (C) unselfish generosity
 - (D) reckless courage
 - (E) irrepressible joy
10. In the parable of creation, “each little spark” (line 64) most likely represents
- (A) an angel
 - (B) a prayer
 - (C) a human soul
 - (D) appreciation of nature
 - (E) an instance of love
11. It can be inferred that each man who drove “considerable distances” (line 74) to see Janie was
- (A) assuaging his guilt for not having been closer to Joe
 - (B) interested in helping her preserve her financial integrity
 - (C) concerned that she might get depressed and withdraw completely from society
 - (D) hoping to convince her that he would be a worthy successor to Joe
 - (E) troubled to see Janie fail to live according to religious principles
12. Which of the following best describes Janie at the end of the passage?
- (A) She is about to become a recluse after having seen the world’s foolishness.
 - (B) She feels free from social constraints and confident about the future.
 - (C) She remains bitter about her childhood but she is now able to forgive.
 - (D) She has concluded that material wealth is not necessarily evil.
 - (E) She is determined to ignore the intervening years and be childlike again.
13. The tone of the last two paragraphs (lines 70-80) is best described as
- (A) cynical exaggeration
 - (B) gentle sarcasm
 - (C) ironic anger
 - (D) forced glee
 - (E) feigned sympathy
14. Which of the following best describes how Janie felt about the influence of her mother and grandmother on her character?
- (A) She felt that it had been very strong, accounting for her honesty and industriousness.
 - (B) She dismissed it as negligible, but remembered her stern upbringing with appreciation
 - (C) She still harbored some resentment, but was confident that she had matured intact.
 - (D) She believed that she would never understand them and they would never understand her.
 - (E) She worried that as she grew older she would become more like them instead of freer from their effect.
15. All of the following represent figurative language EXCEPT
- (A) “expensive black folds” (line 7)
 - (B) “the weight of lonesomeness” (lines 26-27)
 - (C) “a cloak of pity” (line 36)
 - (D) “a jewel down inside herself” (line 55)
 - (E) “the market-place” (line 58)