***Their Eyes Were Watching God***

(Zora Neale Hurston, 1937)

Chapters 18-20 Reading Questions

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

1. Why do the Seminoles say they are leaving the muck? Why don’t people believe the Seminoles are right?
2. What “natural” signs indicate that something bad is coming?
3. Which neighbor invites Teacake and Janie to ride with him? Why does Teacake refuse the offer?
4. What is the mood at Janie & Teacake’s house the night before the storm? What details help create that mood?
5. What type of figurative language does Hurston use to describe/represent the large Lake Okechobee?
6. During the hurricane, we finally see the novel’s title used: *“They seemed to be staring at the dark, but their eyes were watching God”*. What exactly does this sentence mean?
7. Summarize the ordeal that Teacake and Janie (and Motor Boat) endure. How is Teacake injured near the end of the chapter?

CHAPTER NINETEEN

1. Analyze the imagery Hurston uses to describe “Him-with-the-square-toes”. What/Who is she describing?
2. How does Teacake end up burying dead bodies? How are some dead bodies treated differently from others?
3. When they return to the Glades, what do Teacake and Janie learn about their friends? What interesting thing do they learn about Motor Boat?
4. Four weeks into their return, Teacake is sick. What are some of his symptoms?
5. What sickness does Dr. Simmons eventually diagnose Teacake as having? Will Teacake likely survive?
6. Teacake becomes suspicious of Janie. Why?
7. What alarming discovery does Janie find in their bed?
8. Teacake eventually dies. How does it happen?
9. At Janie’s trial, which group wants her to be found guilty? Which group supports her? Why does each group feel differently about Janie?
10. The Chapter ends with Janie burying Teacake and at his funeral, *“She was too busy feeling grief to dress like grief”*. Explain what this means AND what it says about Janie’s character at this point.

CHAPTER TWENTY

1. When Janie returns, what does she take with her in remembrance of Teacake?
2. Explain what Janie means when she tells Phoeby (p. 191) *“Ah done been tuh de horizon and back and now Ah’m satisfied tuh be heah in mah house and live by comparisons.”*
3. Phoeby says she *“done growed ten feet higher jus’ listenin”* to Janie. What does she mean?
4. The book ends and Janie has completed her own American Journey. What has she lost, and what has she gained?