

ENG 101 Diagnostic Assignment B:

Reading and Writing About Zora Neale Hurston's "How It Feels to Be Colored Me"

Your instructor has asked you to complete this assignment in order to gain a better understanding of your ability to read and write and ultimately, to succeed in ENG 101. Based on your performance on this assignment, your instructor may require that you register for ENG 199, Writers Studio; that you use the tutoring services available in the Writing Center; or that you complete different or additional assignments.

This assignment has 3 parts. Please do each part to the best of your ability.

1. Reading

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was a novelist, a folklorist, and an anthropologist best known for her novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. This essay was originally published in 1928. As you read it, notice how Hurston examines her identity from the perspectives of race, geographic region, and gender. Note, too, that Hurston uses several metaphors—"I am a dark rock," "I am in the jungle and living in the jungle way," "I feel like a brown bag"—to define who she is.

2. Summarizing

Write a one-paragraph summary of "How It Feels to Be Colored Me." What is Hurston's main idea? You may need to read the essay again; feel free to print it out, make notes on it, and refer to it as much as you need to.

3. Writing

Think about a time when you realized you were not the same as everyone around you. How did you become aware of your differences? How did you view those differences at the time, and how do you view them today? Write an essay of 500-750 words that, like Hurston's, explores how it feels to be you, both now and in the past.