

# Close Reading Paper #4 Assignment

*Due Monday, March 26.*

*Two pages, double-spaced, paginated. At the top of the first page, place your original title and name. This assignment does not call for a Works Cited page.*

Examine a particular passage from *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, using your close reading to make a statement about the novel as a whole. I have selected two passages as options, but you are welcome to choose one of your own. Your task is not to provide an all-embracing interpretation of the novel, but to make a limited argument about the relevance of a key passage to the narrative.

## Passages

She had no right to be, the way he thought things out. She wasn't even appreciative of his efforts and she had plenty cause to be. Here he was just pouring honor all over her; building a high chair for her to sit in and overlook the world and she here pouting over it! Not that he wanted anybody else, but just too many women would be glad to be in her place. He ought to box her jaws! But he didn't feel like fighting today, so he made an attack upon her position backhand. (62)



*Zora Neale Hurston*

No brutal beating at all. He just slapped her around a bit to show he was boss. Everybody talked about it the next day in the fields. It aroused a sort of envy in both men and women. The way he petted and pampered her as if those two or three face slaps had nearly killed her made the women see visions and the helpless way she hung on him made men dream dreams. (147)