

Name: _____

Score: _____

Assignment. Read “Party for Zora Neale Hurston, Obscure No More.” (NY Times 2005) During your reading, circle unfamiliar terms. Make notes in the margin areas with questions or comments. Improving comprehension is a key to becoming successful college students. Studies indicate engaging with the text during your reading process is vital. Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. What started the surge of new scholarship on Zora Neale Hurston?

2. How many books did Hurston write? How many were written about her?

3. What eccentric behavior attributed to Hurston is cited in the article?

4. According to Hurston, what is “folklore”?

5. Using an on-line source like Dictionary.com, find a formal definition of “folklore” and write it.

6. How did Hurston describe the dramatic nature of the “Negro”?

7. What folktale is told in the article?

8. According to the Hurston, what is the religion of the Anglo-Saxon?

Higher-level thinking questions require you to take a stand and support your statements with evidence. Answer the following questions in complete SENTENCES.

9. Why do you think artists often gain more recognition after their deaths than they did in life?

10. What do you think people mean when they call Hurston a “goddess”? Is there anyone to whom you would refer as a “god” or “goddess”? Why are they deserving of this title?

11. Why do you think Hurston's neighbor would accuse her of a crime she obviously couldn't have committed? Furthermore, have you ever been accused of something you did not do? How did it make you feel?

12. Do you think it is offensive to use racial epithets (if you don't know what this word means – LOOK IT UP!) in the context of a performance or for the sake of art? Explain your answer. Also, give an example from literature or drama where racial epithets were used and why they were used.

Define the following words.

1. protean		5. protégé	
2. conjured		6. masher (slang)	
3. rebuff		7. perennial	
4. pauper		8. libel	

Guggenheim Fellowship

A Brief History of the Fellowship Program. Established in 1925 by former United States Senator and Mrs. Simon Guggenheim, in memory of seventeen-year-old John Simon Guggenheim, the elder of their two sons, who died April 26, 1922, the Foundation has sought from its inception to "add to the educational, literary, artistic, and scientific power of this country, and also to provide for the cause of better international understanding," as the Senator explained in his initial Letter of Gift (March 26, 1925).

The Fellowship. Often characterized as "midcareer" awards, Guggenheim Fellowships are intended for men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

The Foundation receives between 3,500 and 4,000 applications each year. Although no one who applies is guaranteed success in the competition, there is no prescreening; all applications are reviewed. Approximately 220 Fellowships are awarded each year. <http://www.gf.org/about-the-foundation>

*Zora Neale Hurston Guggenheim Fellowship 1936 Category: General Nonfiction