

sparknotes their eyes were watching

sparknotes their eyes were watching offers an insightful and comprehensive summary of Zora Neale Hurston's acclaimed novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God." This article will guide you through a detailed exploration of the book's plot, characters, themes, symbols, and historical background, drawing from the style and depth of SparkNotes to help students, educators, and literature enthusiasts alike. Whether you're preparing for an exam, writing an essay, or simply seeking to deepen your understanding, this analysis covers all key aspects. You'll discover major plot points, character breakdowns, important literary devices, and critical interpretations designed to enhance your appreciation of Hurston's work. Additionally, the article addresses frequently asked questions and provides study tips to make your reading experience more effective. Dive into this definitive resource to master the essential elements and nuanced insights into "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

- Plot Overview and Setting
- Main Characters and Character Analysis
- Major Themes in "Their Eyes Were Watching God"
- Symbols and Motifs
- Historical Context and Author Background
- Critical Reception and Legacy
- Study Tips for "Their Eyes Were Watching God"
- Frequently Asked Questions

Plot Overview and Setting

"Sparknotes their eyes were watching" begins with a succinct overview of the narrative. The novel follows Janie Crawford's journey toward self-discovery and independence in the early 20th-century American South. Janie returns to her hometown of Eatonville, Florida, after years away, and recounts her life story to her friend Pheoby Watson. The narrative unfolds primarily through Janie's perspective, employing a blend of third-person narration and her own voice. The story is structured around her three marriages—to Logan Killicks, Joe (Jody) Starks, and Tea Cake Woods—each representing distinct stages in her personal development. The setting, including the all-Black town of Eatonville and the Florida Everglades, plays a crucial role in shaping the characters' experiences and the novel's atmosphere.

The rural Southern backdrop, with its vibrant community life and connection to nature, provides a rich foundation for the exploration of cultural identity, gender roles, and personal freedom.

Hurston's vivid descriptions immerse readers in a world marked by both hardship and resilience, setting the stage for Janie's transformative journey.

Main Characters and Character Analysis

A hallmark of "sparknotes their eyes were watching" is its in-depth character breakdowns. Understanding the novel's cast is vital for grasping the story's emotional depth and thematic complexity.

Janie Crawford

Janie is the protagonist and focal point of the novel. Her quest for autonomy, love, and self-expression drives the narrative. Through her three marriages, Janie evolves from a voiceless young woman into someone who asserts her independence and identity.

Tea Cake Woods

Tea Cake is Janie's third husband and true love. Charismatic and adventurous, he encourages Janie's growth and treats her as an equal. Their relationship, while passionate and liberating, faces numerous challenges, including poverty and tragedy.

Joe (Jody) Starks

Jody is Janie's ambitious second husband who becomes Eatonville's mayor. While he provides Janie with social status, he also suppresses her voice and independence, embodying patriarchal authority.

Logan Killicks

Logan is Janie's first husband, chosen by her grandmother for security. Their marriage lacks love and companionship, setting Janie on her journey to find true fulfillment.

Pheoby Watson

Pheoby serves as Janie's confidante and the listener to whom Janie recounts her life story. She represents loyalty and the supportive nature of female friendship.

- Nanny Crawford: Janie's grandmother, whose difficult life shapes her hopes for Janie's security

and respectability.

- Mrs. Turner: A minor character who promotes ideas of racial hierarchy and colorism within the Black community.

Major Themes in "Their Eyes Were Watching God"

"Sparknotes their eyes were watching" highlights the novel's central themes, which continue to resonate with readers and scholars.

Search for Identity and Independence

Janie's quest to find her authentic self is the core of the novel. Each relationship brings her closer to understanding her desires, voice, and worth. The narrative explores how societal expectations, especially regarding gender and race, both constrain and inspire her.

Love and Relationships

The novel examines the complexity of love and marriage, contrasting Janie's relationships with Logan, Jody, and Tea Cake. Hurston presents love as a powerful, transformative force but also recognizes its challenges and imperfections.

Race, Gender, and Power

Set in a segregated society, the novel addresses the intersections of race and gender. Janie's experiences expose inequalities within both the Black community and the broader social context. Hurston critiques both racism and sexism, advocating for personal agency.

The Role of Community

Community life in Eatonville and the Everglades is depicted with nuance. The support, gossip, and judgment of others shape Janie's choices and development, illustrating the importance of belonging and individuality.

Symbols and Motifs

An important part of "sparknotes their eyes were watching" is its analysis of Hurston's use of symbolism. These elements deepen the novel's meaning and emotional impact.

The Pear Tree

The pear tree symbolizes Janie's ideal vision of love and harmony with nature. It represents her awakening sexuality and longing for fulfillment.

The Hurricane

The hurricane is a powerful motif representing nature's unpredictability and humanity's vulnerability. It acts as a turning point in the story, challenging Janie and Tea Cake's relationship and underscoring themes of fate and survival.

Hair as a Symbol of Independence

Janie's hair is a recurring symbol of her strength, freedom, and defiance of social norms. Jody's insistence on Janie covering her hair reflects attempts to control and domesticate her individuality.

Historical Context and Author Background

Understanding the historical backdrop enriches any "sparknotes their eyes were watching" summary. "Their Eyes Were Watching God" was published in 1937 during the Harlem Renaissance, a time of vibrant African-American cultural and artistic expression. Zora Neale Hurston, an anthropologist and folklorist, drew from her Southern upbringing and research on Black communities. Her use of dialect and folklore preserves cultural authenticity and celebrates Black voices.

At the time, Hurston's work was both praised and criticized. Some contemporaries felt she did not confront racism directly enough, while others admired her focus on personal empowerment and community life. Today, the novel is lauded as a masterpiece of American literature, studied for its innovative narrative style and profound social commentary.

Critical Reception and Legacy

"Sparknotes their eyes were watching" often discusses the novel's evolving critical reception. Initially overlooked, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" gained recognition in the 1970s and 1980s, particularly through the advocacy of prominent Black writers and scholars. Its exploration of Black womanhood, voice, and resilience has made it a cornerstone in African-American literature and feminist studies.

The novel's influence extends to modern literature, film, and academic discourse. It has inspired adaptations, scholarly works, and continues to be a staple in classrooms for its literary artistry and cultural significance.

Study Tips for "Their Eyes Were Watching God"

To maximize understanding while using "sparknotes their eyes were watching," consider the following study strategies:

1. Read the novel in full before consulting summaries or analyses for a firsthand perspective.
2. Take notes on key events, character development, and themes as you read.
3. Pay attention to Hurston's use of dialect, symbolism, and narrative structure.
4. Discuss the novel in study groups to gain diverse insights.
5. Review critical essays and interpretations to deepen your analysis.
6. Use character maps and plot diagrams to track relationships and events.
7. Practice answering essay and discussion questions to reinforce comprehension.

Frequently Asked Questions

This final section provides concise answers to common questions about "sparknotes their eyes were watching" and Hurston's novel.

Q: What is the main message of "Their Eyes Were Watching God"?

A: The main message centers on Janie's search for self-identity, independence, and fulfillment. The novel explores how love, adversity, and societal expectations shape her journey.

Q: Who are the most important characters in the novel?

A: Key characters include Janie Crawford, Tea Cake Woods, Joe Starks, Logan Killicks, Pheoby Watson, and Nanny Crawford. Each plays a significant role in Janie's personal growth.

Q: What role does the hurricane play in the story?

A: The hurricane serves as a symbol of nature's power and unpredictability. It tests Janie and Tea Cake's relationship, ultimately leading to tragedy and self-realization.

Q: How does Hurston use symbolism in the novel?

A: Symbols such as the pear tree, Janie's hair, and the hurricane enrich the narrative by representing Janie's desires, independence, and the forces beyond human control.

Q: Why is the setting important in "Their Eyes Were Watching God"?

A: The settings of Eatonville and the Florida Everglades reflect the cultural, social, and natural influences on the characters. They shape the story's events and the protagonist's experiences.

Q: What themes make the novel relevant today?

A: Themes of self-discovery, gender roles, love, and resilience remain relevant, resonating with readers seeking empowerment and understanding of cultural identity.

Q: How does Janie change throughout the novel?

A: Janie evolves from a sheltered young woman to an independent individual who defines her own happiness and values her voice.

Q: What is the significance of Janie's relationships?

A: Each relationship reflects different aspects of Janie's search for love, respect, and autonomy, illustrating her gradual transformation.

Q: How did critics initially respond to the novel?

A: Early critics were divided, with some praising Hurston's portrayal of Black life and others criticizing the lack of direct engagement with racial injustice. The novel's reputation has since grown, earning acclaim for its literary and cultural contributions.

Q: Why is "Their Eyes Were Watching God" often studied in schools?

A: The novel is studied for its rich language, complex characters, innovative structure, and exploration of important social and historical themes, making it a valuable work for literary analysis.

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SparkNotes Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Comprehensive Guide

Are you facing a mountain of reading for your English class, and the daunting task of understanding Zora Neale Hurston's powerful novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*? Don't worry! This comprehensive guide serves as your ultimate SparkNotes equivalent, offering insightful summaries, character analyses, and thematic explorations to help you fully grasp the novel's complexities and richness. We'll delve into the key plot points, explore the symbolic language, and unpack the enduring relevance of Hurston's masterpiece. Forget frantic last-minute cramming; let's unlock the secrets of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* together.

I. A Quick Synopsis: Janie's Journey of Self-Discovery

Their Eyes Were Watching God follows the life of Janie Crawford, a young Black woman in the American South, as she navigates love, loss, and the search for self-identity. The narrative unfolds through three marriages, each representing a different stage in Janie's journey toward self-awareness and independence. Her experiences highlight the complexities of race, gender, and societal expectations in early 20th-century America. We follow her from her naive youth, through disillusionment and heartbreak, to a hard-won understanding of herself and her place in the world.

II. Key Characters: More Than Just Names

Understanding the characters is crucial to understanding the novel's themes.

A. Janie Crawford: The protagonist, Janie's journey is the heart of the story. She evolves from a voiceless young woman to a strong, independent individual who learns to define her own happiness and self-worth, rejecting societal pressures to conform.

B. Logan Killicks: Janie's first husband, representing security and practicality but lacking the emotional connection she craves. He symbolizes the limitations of a life dictated by societal expectations rather than personal fulfillment.

C. Joe Starks: Ambitious and domineering, Joe represents a different kind of oppression – the stifling of Janie's voice and individuality under the guise of progress and success. His control mirrors the patriarchal structures of the time.

D. Tea Cake: Janie's third husband, Tea Cake, is arguably the most complex character. While flawed, he represents genuine connection, mutual respect, and a shared journey of self-discovery. Their relationship is dynamic and challenges traditional notions of marriage and gender roles.

III. Unpacking the Themes: Love, Identity, and the Power of Voice

Their Eyes Were Watching God explores several interwoven themes:

A. The Search for Self-Identity: Janie's relentless pursuit of self-discovery forms the backbone of the narrative. She learns to define her own happiness, independent of societal expectations or the desires of others.

B. The Power of Language and Voice: The novel highlights the importance of self-expression and the silencing of women's voices. Janie's journey is also a journey towards finding her voice and using it to shape her life. Hurston's rich, evocative language underscores this theme.

C. Love and Marriage: The novel doesn't romanticize love and marriage; it realistically portrays their complexities and challenges. Each of Janie's relationships reveals different aspects of love, from oppressive control to genuine companionship.

D. Race and Gender in the Early 20th Century: The novel provides a powerful portrayal of the social landscape for Black women in the American South. It explores the intersections of race and gender and the unique challenges faced by Black women in navigating a patriarchal and racist society.

IV. Symbolism: Reading Between the Lines

Hurston employs rich symbolism throughout the novel. The pear tree in the beginning represents Janie's longing for something more, a yearning for a fulfilling love and a life beyond her grandmother's expectations. The Everglades symbolize freedom and independence, offering Janie a space to escape the constraints of societal expectations. The hurricane, finally, represents the destructive and transformative power of nature, mirroring the upheaval in Janie's life.

V. Conclusion: A Lasting Legacy

Their Eyes Were Watching God remains a powerful and relevant work of literature. Janie's journey of

self-discovery continues to resonate with readers today, offering a timeless exploration of love, identity, and the ongoing struggle for equality and self-expression. This guide offers a starting point for a deeper understanding and appreciation of this literary masterpiece. It's not just about passing a test; it's about engaging with a profound and enduring story.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the main conflict in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*? The central conflict is Janie's internal struggle to find her own voice and identity while navigating a patriarchal society and the expectations placed upon her as a Black woman.
2. What is the significance of the title, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*? The title suggests a sense of community observation and the overarching power of a higher force, potentially God, observing Janie's journey. It highlights the interconnectedness of lives and the impact of societal pressures.
3. How does Hurston use dialect in the novel? Hurston employs a distinct dialect reflecting the vernacular of Black communities in the South. This stylistic choice adds authenticity and depth to the characters and their voices.
4. What are the major criticisms of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*? Some critics have questioned the novel's portrayal of Black men and its focus on Janie's individual journey. Others argue that the novel's ending is somewhat ambiguous.
5. Why is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* still relevant today? The novel's themes of self-discovery, racial and gender equality, and the search for love and fulfillment remain deeply resonant and pertinent to contemporary readers, ensuring its enduring legacy.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Their Eyes Were Watching God Zora Neale Hurston, 1937

sparknotes their eyes were watching: A Teacher's Guide to Their Eyes Were Watching God Zora Neale Hurston, Amy Jurskis, 2014-06-24 A leading novel in the canon of African American literature—this free teaching guide for *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston is designed to help you put the new Common Core State Standards into practice. “A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don’t know how to live properly.”—Zadie Smith One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African American literature.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: How It Feels to be Colored Me Zora Neale Hurston, 2024-01-01 The acclaimed author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* relates her experiences as an African American woman in early-twentieth-century America. In this autobiographical essay, author Zora Neale Hurston recounts episodes from her childhood in different communities in Florida: Eatonville and Jacksonville. She reflects on what those experiences showed her about race, identity, and feeling different. “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” was originally published in 1928 in the magazine *The World Tomorrow*.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: The Best We Could Do Thi Bui, 2017-03-07 National bestseller 2017 National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) Finalist ABA Indies Introduce Winter / Spring 2017 Selection Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Spring 2017 Selection ALA 2018 Notable Books Selection An intimate and poignant graphic novel portraying one family's journey from war-torn Vietnam, from debut author Thi Bui. This beautifully illustrated and emotional story is an evocative memoir about the search for a better future and a longing for the past. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family, Bui documents the story of her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s, and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves. At the heart of Bui's story is a universal struggle: While adjusting to life as a first-time mother, she ultimately discovers what it means to be a parent—the endless sacrifices, the unnoticed gestures, and the depths of unspoken love. Despite how impossible it seems to take on the simultaneous roles of both parent and child, Bui pushes through. With haunting, poetic writing and breathtaking art, she examines the strength of family, the importance of identity, and the meaning of home. In what Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen calls "a book to break your heart and heal it," *The Best We Could Do* brings to life Thi Bui's journey of understanding, and provides inspiration to all of those who search for a better future while longing for a simpler past.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Salvage the Bones Jesmyn Ward, 2012-04-12 A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. He's a hard drinker, largely absent, and it isn't often he worries about the family. Esch and her three brothers are stocking up on food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; at fifteen, she has just realized that she's pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pit bull's new litter, dying one by one. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child's play and short on parenting. As the twelve days that make up the novel's framework yield to a dramatic conclusion, this unforgettable family - motherless children sacrificing for one another as they can, protecting and nurturing where love is scarce - pulls itself up to face another day.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Eyes of the Emperor Graham Salisbury, 2014-09-09 Eddy Okubo lies about his age and joins the army in his hometown of Honolulu only weeks before the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Suddenly Americans see him as the enemy—even the U.S. Army doubts the loyalty of Japanese American soldiers. Then the army sends Eddy and a small band of Japanese American soldiers on a secret mission to a small island off the coast of Mississippi. Here they are given a special job, one that only they can do. Eddy's going to help train attack dogs. He's going to be the bait.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: What the Eyes Don't See Mona Hanna-Attisha, 2018-06-19 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK • The dramatic story of the Flint water crisis, by a relentless physician who stood up to power. "Stirring . . . [a] blueprint for all those who believe . . . that 'the world . . . should be full of people raising their voices.'"—The New York Times "Revealing, with the gripping intrigue of a Grisham thriller." —O: The Oprah Magazine Here is the inspiring story of how Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, alongside a team of researchers, parents, friends, and community leaders, discovered that the children of Flint, Michigan, were being exposed to lead in their tap water—and then battled her own government and a brutal backlash to expose that truth to the world. Paced like a scientific thriller, *What the Eyes Don't See* reveals how misguided austerity policies, broken democracy, and callous bureaucratic indifference placed an entire city at risk. And at the center of the story is Dr. Mona herself—an immigrant, doctor, scientist, and mother whose family's activist roots inspired her pursuit of justice. *What the Eyes Don't See* is a riveting account of a shameful disaster that became a tale of hope, the story of a city on the ropes that came together to fight for justice, self-determination, and the right to build a better world for their—and all of our—children. Praise for *What the Eyes Don't See* "It is one thing to point out a problem. It is another thing altogether to step up and work to fix it. Mona Hanna-Attisha is a true American hero."—Erin Brockovich "A clarion call to live a life of purpose."—The Washington Post "Gripping . .

. entertaining . . . Her book has power precisely because she takes the events she recounts so personally. . . . Moral outrage present on every page.”—The New York Times Book Review “Personal and emotional. . . She vividly describes the effects of lead poisoning on her young patients. . . . She is at her best when recounting the detective work she undertook after a tip-off about lead levels from a friend. . . . ‘Flint will not be defined by this crisis,’ vows Ms. Hanna-Attisha.”—The Economist “Flint is a public health disaster. But it was Dr. Mona, this caring, tough pediatrician turned detective, who cracked the case.”—Rachel Maddow

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Mules and Men Zora Neale Hurston, 2009-10-13 Zora Neale Hurston brings us Black America’s folklore as only she can, putting the oral history on the written page with grace and understanding. This new edition of Mules and Men features a new cover and a P.S. section which includes insights, interviews, and more. For the student of cultural history, Mules and Men is a treasury of Black America’s folklore as collected by Zora Neale Hurston, the storyteller and anthropologist who grew up hearing the songs and sermons, sayings and tall tales that have formed the oral history of the South since the time of slavery. Set intimately within the social context of Black life, the stories, “big old lies,” songs, voodoo customs, and superstitions recorded in these pages capture the imagination and bring back to life the humor and wisdom that is the unique heritage of Black Americans.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: All the Broken Pieces Ann E. Burg, 2013-09-24 An award-winning debut novel from a stellar new voice in middle grade fiction. Matt Pin would like to forget: war torn Vietnam, bombs that fell like dead crows, and the terrible secret he left behind. But now that he is living with a caring adoptive family in the United States, he finds himself forced to confront his past. And that means choosing between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom. By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: The Ride of a Lifetime Robert Iger, 2019-09-23 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A memoir of leadership and success: The executive chairman of Disney, Time’s 2019 businessperson of the year, shares the ideas and values he embraced during his fifteen years as CEO while reinventing one of the world’s most beloved companies and inspiring the people who bring the magic to life. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR Robert Iger became CEO of The Walt Disney Company in 2005, during a difficult time. Competition was more intense than ever and technology was changing faster than at any time in the company’s history. His vision came down to three clear ideas: Recommit to the concept that quality matters, embrace technology instead of fighting it, and think bigger—think global—and turn Disney into a stronger brand in international markets. Today, Disney is the largest, most admired media company in the world, counting Pixar, Marvel, Lucasfilm, and 21st Century Fox among its properties. Its value is nearly five times what it was when Iger took over, and he is recognized as one of the most innovative and successful CEOs of our era. In *The Ride of a Lifetime*, Robert Iger shares the lessons he learned while running Disney and leading its 220,000-plus employees, and he explores the principles that are necessary for true leadership, including: • Optimism. Even in the face of difficulty, an optimistic leader will find the path toward the best possible outcome and focus on that, rather than give in to pessimism and blaming. • Courage. Leaders have to be willing to take risks and place big bets. Fear of failure destroys creativity. • Decisiveness. All decisions, no matter how difficult, can be made on a timely basis. Indecisiveness is both wasteful and destructive to morale. • Fairness. Treat people decently, with empathy, and be accessible to them. This book is about the relentless curiosity that has driven Iger for forty-five years, since the day he started as the lowliest studio grunt at ABC. It’s also about thoughtfulness and respect, and a decency-over-dollars approach that has become the bedrock of every project and partnership Iger pursues, from a deep friendship with Steve Jobs in his final years to an abiding love of the Star Wars mythology. “The ideas in this book strike me as universal” Iger writes. “Not just to the aspiring CEOs of the world, but to anyone wanting to feel less fearful, more confidently themselves, as they navigate their professional and

even personal lives.”

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Harris and Me Gary Paulsen, 2007 A cloth bag containing ten copies of the title.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Gods of the Upper Air* Charles King, 2020-07-14 2020 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award Winner Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award From an award-winning historian comes a dazzling history of the birth of cultural anthropology and the adventurous scientists who pioneered it—a sweeping chronicle of discovery and the fascinating origin story of our multicultural world. A century ago, everyone knew that people were fated by their race, sex, and nationality to be more or less intelligent, nurturing, or warlike. But Columbia University professor Franz Boas looked at the data and decided everyone was wrong. Racial categories, he insisted, were biological fictions. Cultures did not come in neat packages labeled primitive or advanced. What counted as a family, a good meal, or even common sense was a product of history and circumstance, not of nature. In *Gods of the Upper Air*, a masterful narrative history of radical ideas and passionate lives, Charles King shows how these intuitions led to a fundamental reimagining of human diversity. Boas's students were some of the century's most colorful figures and unsung visionaries: Margaret Mead, the outspoken field researcher whose *Coming of Age in Samoa* is among the most widely read works of social science of all time; Ruth Benedict, the great love of Mead's life, whose research shaped post-Second World War Japan; Ella Deloria, the Dakota Sioux activist who preserved the traditions of Native Americans on the Great Plains; and Zora Neale Hurston, whose studies under Boas fed directly into her now classic novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Together, they mapped civilizations from the American South to the South Pacific and from Caribbean islands to Manhattan's city streets, and unearthed an essential fact buried by centuries of prejudice: that humanity is an undivided whole. Their revolutionary findings would go on to inspire the fluid conceptions of identity we know today. Rich in drama, conflict, friendship, and love, *Gods of the Upper Air* is a brilliant and groundbreaking history of American progress and the opening of the modern mind.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: The Honest Truth Dan Gemeinhart, 2015-03-05 Mark has been in and out of hospital his whole life - and he's fed up. So when his cancer returns, he decides he's had enough. Running away with his dog Beau, he sets out to climb a mountain - and it's only when he's left everything behind that Mark realises he has everything to live for.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Jan's Story Barry Rex Petersen, 2010 CBS News correspondent Barry Petersen tells the tender story of his wife's battle with Early Onset Alzheimer's.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: **HOW TO WIN FRIENDS & INFLUENCE PEOPLE** Dale Carnegie, 2023-11-26 Dale Carnegie's 'How to Win Friends & Influence People' is a timeless self-help classic that explores the art of building successful relationships through effective communication. Written in a straightforward and engaging style, Carnegie's book provides practical advice on how to enhance social skills, improve leadership qualities, and achieve personal and professional success. The book is a must-read for anyone looking to navigate social dynamics and connect with others in a meaningful way, making it a valuable resource in today's interconnected world. With anecdotal examples and actionable tips, Carnegie's work resonates with readers of all ages and backgrounds, making it a popular choice for personal development and growth. Carnegie's ability to distill complex social principles into simple, actionable steps sets this book apart as a timeless guide for building lasting relationships and influencing others positively. Readers will benefit from Carnegie's wisdom and insight, gaining valuable tools to navigate social interactions and achieve success in their personal and professional lives.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Before We Were Free Julia Alvarez, 2007-12-18 Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government's secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition of el Trujillo's dictatorship. Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind. From renowned

author Julia Alvarez comes an unforgettable story about adolescence, perseverance, and one girl's struggle to be free.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: The Last Book in the Universe (Scholastic Gold)

Rodman Philbrick, 2013-03-01 This fast-paced action novel is set in a future where the world has been almost destroyed. Like the award-winning novel *Freak the Mighty*, this is Philbrick at his very best. It's the story of an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz, who begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the planet. In a world where most people are plugged into brain-drain entertainment systems, Spaz is the rare human being who can see life as it really is. When he meets an old man called Ryter, he begins to learn about Earth and its past. With Ryter as his companion, Spaz sets off an unlikely quest to save his dying sister -- and in the process, perhaps the world.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *The Catcher in the Rye* J. D. Salinger, 2024-06-28 *The Catcher in the Rye*, written by J.D. Salinger and published in 1951, is a classic American novel that explores the themes of adolescence, alienation, and identity through the eyes of its protagonist, Holden Caulfield. The novel is set in the 1950s and follows Holden, a 16-year-old who has just been expelled from his prep school, Pencey Prep. Disillusioned with the world around him, Holden decides to leave Pencey early and spend a few days alone in New York City before returning home. Over the course of these days, Holden interacts with various people, including old friends, a former teacher, and strangers, all the while grappling with his feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction. Holden is deeply troubled by the "phoniness" of the adult world and is haunted by the death of his younger brother, Allie, which has left a lasting impact on him. He fantasizes about being "the catcher in the rye," a guardian who saves children from losing their innocence by catching them before they fall off a cliff into adulthood. The novel ends with Holden in a mental institution, where he is being treated for a nervous breakdown. He expresses some hope for the future, indicating a possible path to recovery..

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Before We Were Yours Lisa Wingate, 2017-06-06

THE BLOCKBUSTER HIT—Over two million copies sold! A New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Publishers Weekly Bestseller “Poignant, engrossing.”—People • “Lisa Wingate takes an almost unthinkable chapter in our nation’s history and weaves a tale of enduring power.”—Paula McLain Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family’s Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children’s Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility’s cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty. Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family’s long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption. Based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate’s riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. Publishers Weekly’s #3 Longest-Running Bestseller of 2017 • Winner of the Southern Book Prize • If All Arkansas Read the Same Book Selection This edition includes a new essay by the author about shantyboat life.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *The Distance Between Us* Reyna Grande, 2012-08-28

In this inspirational and unflinchingly honest memoir, acclaimed author Reyna Grande describes her childhood torn between the United States and Mexico, and shines a light on the experiences, fears, and hopes of those who choose to make the harrowing journey across the border. Reyna Grande vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years in this “compelling...unvarnished, resonant”

(BookPage) story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to “El Otro Lado” (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to “El Otro Lado” to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father. Funny, heartbreaking, and lyrical, *The Distance Between Us* poignantly captures the confusion and contradictions of childhood, reminding us that the joys and sorrows we experience are imprinted on the heart forever, calling out to us of those places we first called home. Also available in Spanish as *La distancia entre nosotros*.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *If You Come Softly* Jacqueline Woodson, 2006-06-22 A lyrical story of star-crossed love perfect for readers of *The Hate U Give*, by National Ambassador for Children’s Literature Jacqueline Woodson—now celebrating its twentieth anniversary, and including a new preface by the author Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he’s in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he’s going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don’t exactly fit in there. So it’s a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they fit together—even though she’s Jewish and he’s black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that’s not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way. Jacqueline Woodson’s work has been called “moving and resonant” (*Wall Street Journal*) and “gorgeous” (*Vanity Fair*). *If You Come Softly* is a powerful story of interracial love that leaves readers wondering why and if only . . .

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Brian’s Winter* Gary Paulsen, 2012-03-13 From three-time Newbery Honor-winning author Gary Paulsen comes a beloved follow-up to his award-winning classic *Hatchet* that asks: What if Brian hadn’t been rescued and had to face his deadliest enemy yet—winter? In the Newbery Honor-winning *Hatchet*, thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. As millions of readers know, he was rescued at the end of the summer. But what if that hadn’t happened? What if Brian had been left to face his deadliest enemy—winter? Brian Paulsen raises the stakes for survival in this riveting and inspiring story as one boy confronts the ultimate adventure. “Paulsen picks *Hatchet*’s story up in midstream; read together, the two books make his finest tale of survival yet.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred “Breathtaking descriptions of nature . . . Paulsen fans will not be disappointed.” —*School Library Journal* Read all the *Hatchet Adventures*! *Brian’s Winter* The River Brian’s Return Brian’s Hunt

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *The Poet X* Elizabeth Acevedo, 2018-03-06 Winner of the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpré Award! Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can’t stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent. “Crackles with energy and snaps with authenticity and voice.” —Justina Ireland, author of *Dread Nation* “An incredibly potent debut.” —Jason Reynolds, author of the National Book Award Finalist *Ghost* “Acevedo has amplified the voices of girls en el barrio who are equal parts goddess, saint, warrior, and hero.” —Ibi Zoboi, author of *American Street* This young adult novel, a selection of the Schomburg Center’s Black Liberation Reading List, is an excellent choice for accelerated tween

readers in grades 6 to 8. Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's *With the Fire on High* and *Clap When You Land*!

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Home of the Brave* Katherine Applegate, 2014-12-23 Bestselling author Katherine Applegate presents *Home of the Brave*, a beautifully wrought middle grade novel about an immigrant's journey from hardship to hope. Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter – cold and unkind. In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means family in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country. *Home of the Brave* is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Small as an Elephant* Jennifer Jacobson, 2011 Abandoned by his mother in an Acadia National Park campground, Jack tries to make his way back to Boston before anyone figures out what is going on, with only a small toy elephant for company.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *The Hermit's Story* Rick Bass, 2003-09-18 A Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year: "Uniformly excellent" stories about our relationships with each other and with the treacherous natural world (Publishers Weekly). In the title story, a man and woman travel across an eerily frozen lake—under the ice. "The Distance" casts a skeptical eye on Thomas Jefferson through the lens of a Montana man's visit to Monticello. "Eating" begins with an owl being sucked into a canoe and ends with a man eating a town out of house and home, and "The Cave" is a stunning story of a man and woman lost in an abandoned mine. Other stories include "The Fireman," "Swans," "The Prisoners," "Presidents' Day," "Real Town," and "Two Deer." Each is remarkable in its own way, sure to please both new readers and avid fans of Rick Bass's passionate, unmistakable voice. "Bass focuses a naturalist's eye not only on the frozen lakes and interplay of predator and prey often found in his work but also on the ebb and flow of human emotions and relationships . . . Thought-provoking and entertaining, these stories move along quickly but continue to resonate long after the reader is done; several have been anthologized in award collections." —Library Journal "Beautiful in their magical imagery, dramatic in their situations, and exquisitely poignant in their insights, these stories of awe and loss are quite astonishing in their mythic use of place and the elements of earth, air, fire, and water." —Booklist "Bass puts his talent as a nature writer to terrific use." —The New York Times Book Review "Bass's language glistens with the beauty of the landscapes he evokes." —San Francisco Chronicle Book Review

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *The Way of Kings* Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 A new epic fantasy series from the New York Times bestselling author chosen to complete Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time*® Series

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Home Before Dark* Riley Sager, 2020-06-30 In the latest thriller from New York Times bestseller Riley Sager, a woman returns to the house made famous by her father's bestselling horror memoir. Is the place really haunted by evil forces, as her father claimed? Or are there more earthbound—and dangerous—secrets hidden within its walls? What was it like? Living in that house. Maggie Holt is used to such questions. Twenty-five years ago, she and her parents, Ewan and Jess, moved into Baneberry Hall, a rambling Victorian estate in the Vermont woods. They spent three weeks there before fleeing in the dead of night, an ordeal Ewan later recounted in a nonfiction book called *House of Horrors*. His tale of ghostly happenings and encounters with malevolent spirits became a worldwide phenomenon, rivaling *The Amityville Horror* in popularity—and skepticism. Today, Maggie is a restorer of old homes and too young to remember any of the events mentioned in her father's book. But she also doesn't believe a word of it. Ghosts, after all, don't exist. When Maggie inherits Baneberry Hall after her father's death, she returns to renovate the place to prepare it for sale. But her homecoming is anything but warm. People from the past, chronicled in *House of Horrors*, lurk in the shadows. And locals aren't thrilled that their small

town has been made infamous thanks to Maggie's father. Even more unnerving is Baneberry Hall itself—a place filled with relics from another era that hint at a history of dark deeds. As Maggie experiences strange occurrences straight out of her father's book, she starts to believe that what he wrote was more fact than fiction.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *The Night Watchman* Louise Erdrich, 2020-03-03 WINNER OF THE 2021 PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER WASHINGTON POST, AMAZON, NPR, CBS SUNDAY MORNING, KIRKUS, CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING BEST BOOK OF 2020 Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman. Thomas Wazhashk is the night watchman at the jewel bearing plant, the first factory located near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota. He is also a Chippewa Council member who is trying to understand the consequences of a new "emancipation" bill on its way to the floor of the United States Congress. It is 1953 and he and the other council members know the bill isn't about freedom; Congress is fed up with Indians. The bill is a "termination" that threatens the rights of Native Americans to their land and their very identity. How can the government abandon treaties made in good faith with Native Americans "for as long as the grasses shall grow, and the rivers run"? Since graduating high school, Pixie Paranteau has insisted that everyone call her Patrice. Unlike most of the girls on the reservation, Patrice, the class valedictorian, has no desire to wear herself down with a husband and kids. She makes jewel bearings at the plant, a job that barely pays her enough to support her mother and brother. Patrice's shameful alcoholic father returns home sporadically to terrorize his wife and children and bully her for money. But Patrice needs every penny to follow her beloved older sister, Vera, who moved to the big city of Minneapolis. Vera may have disappeared; she hasn't been in touch in months, and is rumored to have had a baby. Determined to find Vera and her child, Patrice makes a fateful trip to Minnesota that introduces her to unexpected forms of exploitation and violence, and endangers her life. Thomas and Patrice live in this impoverished reservation community along with young Chippewa boxer Wood Mountain and his mother Juggie Blue, her niece and Patrice's best friend Valentine, and Stack Barnes, the white high school math teacher and boxing coach who is hopelessly in love with Patrice. In *The Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich creates a fictional world populated with memorable characters who are forced to grapple with the worst and best impulses of human nature. Illuminating the loves and lives, the desires and ambitions of these characters with compassion, wit, and intelligence, *The Night Watchman* is a majestic work of fiction from this revered cultural treasure.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *It's Kind of a Funny Story* Ned Vizzini, 2010-09-25 Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job—Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy. At his new school, Craig realizes that he isn't brilliant compared to the other kids; he's just average, and maybe not even that. He soon sees his once-perfect future crumbling away.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Love Medicine* Louise Erdrich, 2010-08-15 The first of Louise Erdrich's polysymphonic novels set in North Dakota – a fictional landscape that, in Erdrich's hands, has become iconic – *Love Medicine* is the story of three generations of Ojibwe families. Set against the tumultuous politics of the reservation, the lives of the Kashpaws and the Lamartines are a testament to the endurance of a people and the sorrows of history.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: *Words of Radiance* Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, *Words of Radiance*, Book Two of the Stormlight Archive, continues the immersive fantasy epic that *The Way of Kings* began. Expected by his enemies to die the miserable death of a military slave, Kaladin survived to be given command

of the royal bodyguards, a controversial first for a low-status darkeyes. Now he must protect the king and Dalinar from every common peril as well as the distinctly uncommon threat of the Assassin, all while secretly struggling to master remarkable new powers that are somehow linked to his honorspren, Syl. The Assassin, Szeth, is active again, murdering rulers all over the world of Roshar, using his baffling powers to thwart every bodyguard and elude all pursuers. Among his prime targets is Highprince Dalinar, widely considered the power behind the Alethi throne. His leading role in the war would seem reason enough, but the Assassin's master has much deeper motives. Brilliant but troubled Shallan strives along a parallel path. Despite being broken in ways she refuses to acknowledge, she bears a terrible burden: to somehow prevent the return of the legendary Voidbringers and the civilization-ending Desolation that will follow. The secrets she needs can be found at the Shattered Plains, but just arriving there proves more difficult than she could have imagined. Meanwhile, at the heart of the Shattered Plains, the Parshendi are making an epochal decision. Hard pressed by years of Alethi attacks, their numbers ever shrinking, they are convinced by their war leader, Eshonai, to risk everything on a desperate gamble with the very supernatural forces they once fled. The possible consequences for Parshendi and humans alike, indeed, for Roshar itself, are as dangerous as they are incalculable. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners ● Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) ● Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Rhythm of War Brandon Sanderson, 2020-11-17 An instant #1 New York Times Bestseller and a USA Today and Indie Bestseller! The Stormlight Archive saga continues in Rhythm of War, the eagerly awaited sequel to Brandon Sanderson's #1 New York Times bestselling Oathbringer, from an epic fantasy writer at the top of his game. After forming a coalition of human resistance against the enemy invasion, Dalinar Kholin and his Knights Radiant have spent a year fighting a protracted, brutal war. Neither side has gained an advantage, and the threat of a betrayal by Dalinar's crafty ally Taravangian looms over every strategic move. Now, as new technological discoveries by Navani Kholin's scholars begin to change the face of the war, the enemy prepares a bold and dangerous operation. The arms race that follows will challenge the very core of the Radiant ideals, and potentially reveal the secrets of the ancient tower that was once the heart of their strength. At the same time that Kaladin Stormblessed must come to grips with his changing role within the Knights Radiant, his Windrunners face their own problem: As more and more deadly enemy Fused awaken to wage war, no more honorspren are willing to bond with humans to increase the number of Radiants. Adolin and Shallan must lead the coalition's envoy to the honorspren stronghold of Lasting Integrity and either convince the spren to join the cause against the evil god Odium, or personally face the storm of failure. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians

series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners ● Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) ● Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: The Circle Dave Eggers, 2013-10-08

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER • A bestselling dystopian novel that tackles surveillance, privacy and the frightening intrusions of technology in our lives—a “compulsively readable parable for the 21st century” (Vanity Fair). When Mae Holland is hired to work for the Circle, the world’s most powerful internet company, she feels she’s been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The Circle, run out of a sprawling California campus, links users’ personal emails, social media, banking, and purchasing with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of civility and transparency. As Mae tours the open-plan office spaces, the towering glass dining facilities, the cozy dorms for those who spend nights at work, she is thrilled with the company’s modernity and activity. There are parties that last through the night, there are famous musicians playing on the lawn, there are athletic activities and clubs and brunches, and even an aquarium of rare fish retrieved from the Marianas Trench by the CEO. Mae can’t believe her luck, her great fortune to work for the most influential company in the world—even as life beyond the campus grows distant, even as a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, even as her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. What begins as the captivating story of one woman’s ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Barracoon Zora Neale Hurston, 2018-05-08 One of the New York Times' Most Memorable Literary Moments of the Last 25 Years! • New York Times Bestseller • TIME Magazine's Best Nonfiction Book of 2018 • New York Public Library's Best Book of 2018 • NPR's Book Concierge Best Book of 2018 • Economist Book of the Year • SELF.com's Best Books of 2018 • Audible's Best of the Year • BookRiot's Best Audio Books of 2018 • The Atlantic's Books Briefing: History, Reconsidered • Atlanta Journal Constitution, Best Southern Books 2018 • The Christian Science Monitor's Best Books 2018 • “A profound impact on Hurston’s literary legacy.”—New York Times “One of the greatest writers of our time.”—Toni Morrison “Zora Neale Hurston’s genius has once again produced a Maestrapiece.”—Alice Walker A major literary event: a newly published work from the author of the American classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, with a foreword from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, brilliantly illuminates the horror and injustices of slavery as it tells the true story of one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade—abducted from Africa on the last Black Cargo ship to arrive in the United States. In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, just outside Mobile, to interview eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis. Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America as slaves, Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation’s history. Hurston was there to record Cudjo’s firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage fifty years after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in the United States. In 1931, Hurston returned to Plateau, the African-centric community three miles from Mobile founded by Cudjo and other former slaves from his ship. Spending more than three months there, she talked in depth with Cudjo about the details of his life. During those weeks, the young writer and the elderly formerly enslaved man ate peaches and watermelon that grew in the backyard and talked about Cudjo’s past—memories from his childhood in Africa, the horrors of being captured and held in a barracoon for selection by American slavers, the harrowing experience of the Middle Passage packed with more than 100 other souls aboard the *Clotilda*, and the years he spent in slavery until the end of the Civil War. Based on those interviews, featuring Cudjo’s unique vernacular, and written from Hurston’s perspective with the compassion and singular style that have made her one

of the preeminent American authors of the twentieth-century, *Barracoon* masterfully illustrates the tragedy of slavery and of one life forever defined by it. Offering insight into the pernicious legacy that continues to haunt us all, black and white, this poignant and powerful work is an invaluable contribution to our shared history and culture.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Mama Terry McMillan, 1992 The explosive novel that introduced #1 New York Times bestselling author Terry McMillan-now in a new trade edition.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: We Have Always Lived in the Castle Shirley Jackson, 1962 *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* is a deliciously unsettling novel about a perverse, isolated, and possibly murderous family and the struggle that ensues when a cousin arrives at their estate.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: The Daily Spark SparkNotes, Sparknotes Editors, 2004-07 The *Daily Spark* series gives classroom teachers a dynamic way of delivering stimulating and effective exercises to get students motivated at the start of class. Each book in the series features 180 exercises, one for each day of the school year. These small, handy books are brightly designed for quick and easy reproduction. Each *Daily Spark* prompt is uniquely tailored for subject matter; while one may present a short problem, another may pose a provocative question or ask students to write a brief poem or journal entry.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Invisible Man Ralph Ellison, 2014 The invisible man is the unnamed narrator of this impassioned novel of black lives in 1940s America. Embittered by a country which treats him as a non-being he retreats to an underground cell.

sparknotes their eyes were watching: Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High, Third Edition Joseph Grenny, Kerry Patterson, Ron McMillan, Al Switzler, Emily Gregory, 2021-10-26 Keep your cool and get the results you want when faced with crucial conversations. This New York Times bestseller and business classic has been fully updated for a world where skilled communication is more important than ever. The book that revolutionized business communications has been updated for today's workplace. *Crucial Conversations* provides powerful skills to ensure every conversation—especially difficult ones—leads to the results you want. Written in an engaging and witty style, the book teaches readers how to be persuasive rather than abrasive, how to get back to productive dialogue when others blow up or clam up, and it offers powerful skills for mastering high-stakes conversations, regardless of the topic or person. This new edition addresses issues that have arisen in recent years. You'll learn how to: Respond when someone initiates a crucial conversation with you Identify and address the lag time between identifying a problem and discussing it Communicate more effectively across digital mediums When stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong, you have three choices: Avoid a crucial conversation and suffer the consequences; handle the conversation poorly and suffer the consequences; or apply the lessons and strategies of *Crucial Conversations* and improve relationships and results. Whether they take place at work or at home, with your coworkers or your spouse, crucial conversations have a profound impact on your career, your happiness, and your future. With the skills you learn in this book, you'll never have to worry about the outcome of a crucial conversation again.

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