

### “Dust Tracks on a Road”

This is autobiographical information about the author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

1. Which details in the first two paragraphs show what Hurston was like as a young girl and what she is like as an adult writing her own biography?
2. The grandmother speaks in a regional dialect. Paraphrase her words in standard English (starting with “Git down offa dat gatepost!” to “Youse too brazen to live long.” (p. 839-840)
3. Why do you think Hurston is so fixated on the white women’s hands?
4. How do Hurston’s reading capabilities compare to those of her classmates? What does this tell you about her?
5. Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a part represents a whole. How is this device used when Hurston refers to “Brown Taffeta”?
6. Hurston is moved by receiving the dollar’s worth of pennies. She explains, “I stood on the mountain.” What does that expression mean, and why were the pennies so momentous to her?
7. What is your opinion of the white women’s treatment of Hurston? Do you consider it generous giving or condescending charity? Defend your opinion.
8. Which character from the Bible did Hurston like the most as a child? What does this say about her?