

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Essay Prompt and Rubric

Name _____

Prompt: Analyze Hurston’s use of one motif in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and how it illustrates one of the novel’s themes.

Thesis Statement: Develop your thesis statement by, first, deciding which motif you would like to focus on. What does that motif represent? What is Hurston’s claim, or message, regarding the subject you would like to focus on? A thesis statement might be structured like this:

Hurston uses the image of the _____ to prove her claim that _____

Prove Your Argument: Use your motif chart to come up with 2-4 examples that prove your thesis to be true. Support your argument with *relevant* quotes from the text.

Requirements: Write a 4-6 paragraph analytical essay (introduction, body, conclusion). Use at least two quotes to support your argument. Follow proper MLA formatting and parenthetical documentation. Do not forget the Works Cited page. (*Note: the publication date is the most recent date listed on the title page.)

Rubric

Content

Introduction /10

General to specific info...title, author, brief summary

Thesis is clear, answers the prompt, and states an argument /5

Body Paragraphs /45

topic sentence supports the thesis and supports topic /5

contains two quotes with correct parenthetical citation /5

quotes are set up and discussed /10

thesis is supported with textual evidence /20

transitions within the paragraph & between paragraphs /5

Conclusion /10

thesis statement reworded

conclusion includes summary of the main points without repetition

MLA Format /5

TNR, 12pt, 1” margins, double spaced throughout, proper heading

Works Cited /10

Correct bibliographic info provided, correct order, correct punctuation

Grammar/Spelling/Voice /15

Essay is free of grammatical and spelling errors; formal voice is used throughout

Total Points /100

of days late: _____ - _____ % _____ = /100

