

Zora Neale Hurston

Lesson Plan for Grades 3-5

Studies Weekly ELA Standards	SW.RI.1, SW.RI.2, SW.RF.4, SW.SL.1.B, SW.SL.1.C, SW.SL.1.D, SW.SL.6, SW.L.1.I, SW.L.7.B
Materials List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Smartboard <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston <input type="checkbox"/> Paper with “Commitment to My Education Means...” printed on it (1 for each student)
Approximate Time	35-40 minutes, not including the 1- to 3-minute article.
Balanced Literacy Format	Read aloud
Lesson Presentation Format	Whole group
Specific/Research-based Strategies	Cooperative Learning: Think-Pair-Share
Differentiated Instruction	Pair students of different abilities together.
Enrichment Activity	Have students research the Harlem Renaissance and explain the role that Zora Neale Hurston had in it.
Quiz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Zora Neale Hurston most known for? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. dying penniless and being buried in a nameless grave b. writing poems, folk tales and novels about the South c. being an African American woman from Florida 2. Where did Hurston get her material for her stories? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. from the songs and stories of the people in her community b. from her imagination c. from the stories that were passed down in her family for generations
Answer Key / Complexity Level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. b (LOW/2) 2. a (LOW/2)
Activity Directions for the Teacher	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce Zora Neale Hurston to the class by showing them a copy of her book “Their Eyes Were Watching God”. Explain that she was an American novelist known for African American literature, and that this was her most famous book. It was even made into a movie. 	

2. Share the article in Studies Weekly. Week 1, page 1:
<https://app.studiesweekly.com/online/publications/137952/units/138421#/articles/147239>
3. Explain to the class that it was commitment to writing the stories about her African American community that helped make her a success.
4. Do a think-pair-share activity with the students. Have the students choose a partner. Then have them think about what commitment means to them. Have them share with their partner. Next, have them think about being committed to their education. Have them share with their partner again.
5. Pass out a piece of paper to each student and have them complete this sentence: "Commitment to my education means..."
6. Collect the papers and make a class poster with them. Keep the poster up in the classroom to remind the students to stay committed to their school work.