



Zora Neale Hurston

January 7, 1891 - January 28, 1960

Childhood to Teen Years

- Daughter of John Hurston & Lucy Hurston
- Eatonville, Florida
- Morgana Academy High School



Young Adulthood

- Howard University and her two-year Associate's degree
- Intrigue with anthropology; Barnard College
- Love, Marriage, & Divorce



Literary Career

- Flourished from 1930s to early '40s
- Columbia University
- Dust Tracks on a Road
- Their Eyes Were Watching God
- Tell My Horse



Controversy

- Child molestation allegation
- Feud with W.E.B. Du Bois & Richard Wright
- Return to Eatonville

Death

- Hurston's life ended in poverty on January 28, 1960 after she suffered a fatal stroke.
- Buried in an unmarked grave in Fort Pierce, FL.

Legacy after Death

- University of Florida's Zora Neale Hurston Fellowship in Anthropology
- City building in Orlando
- Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts & Humanities in Eatonville
- Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of the Fine Arts
- Headstone dedication by Alice Walker

Modernism

- Often characterized as a revolutionary force.
- Experimentation in writing style is key.
- How the individual relates to their environment or how the environment helps to create the individual are emphasized.

The Harlem Renaissance

- <http://www.history.com/videos/the-harlem-renaissance>

Components of Harlem Renaissance Works

- Content is directly related to African American concerns and issues of the time.
- Poetry relies heavily on repetitive structure similar to blues lyrics or on fragmented similar to jazz improvisation
- New American idiom
- Amalgamation of European literary forms (the Shakespearean Sonnet) and content and tone of African American concerns.
 - Claude McKay's "If We Must Die"

Things to Consider While Reading

- Sexual warfare
- Dreams and ambitions
- Society and class
- The perspective of the individual and how the individual is viewed by others
- Race relations (White v.s. Black juxtaposition)
- Inter-race relations (Black v.s. Black; colorism)
- Dialects