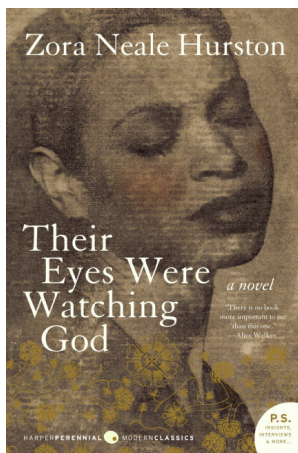


GISB Summer Reading for Incoming 10th Graders , 2023

Dear Incoming Tenth Graders,

It has been a pleasure to work with you and watch your growth. We are a school of great readers and keeping this pastime up over the summer will keep your reading muscles in good shape.



To call Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* an "African American feminist classic" may be an accurate statement—it is certainly a frequent statement—but it is a misleadingly narrow and rather dull way to introduce a vibrant and achingly human novel. The syncopated beauty of Hurston's prose, her remarkable gift for comedy, the sheer visceral terror of the book's climax, all transcend any label that critics have tried to put on this remarkable work. First published amid controversy in 1937, then rescued from obscurity four decades later, the novel narrates Janie Crawford's ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny. Although Hurston wrote the novel in only seven weeks, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* breathes and bleeds a whole life's worth of urgent experience.

overarching question: What does it mean to live well? What does it mean to reach for the horizon?

We'll use this book as our starting text when we return, so it makes sense to read and annotate it closer to August than to June. You'll be expected to be familiar with the plot, characters and major themes. See tips for annotating below.

Tips for annotating: Forty to fifty percent of the pages should have annotations.

- Underline or highlight compelling passages and make notes in the margins.
- Underline some challenging words—particularly words that repeat—and write their definitions in the margins.
- Note passages where the language is particularly memorable or compelling or beautiful and try to make note of why, e.g., is it the imagery or perhaps a particular syntactic structure?
- Note patterns and connections. If a particular passage on page “x” reminds you of something on page “y,” make a note of it. Also note connections among texts. Have you seen this before?
- Think deeply and widely about the text. Consider its period, history, and the themes and writing method this author uses to reveal their meanings.
- Think about ways this book compares with other books youve read - in school and out.

Here is a link to a list of contemporary texts as well as some other more classic titles you might enjoy, but remember, the library is a great free resource and browsing the shelves of a bookstore is always nice on a hot day! I’d suggest looking over the lists with an adult or friend to share input as well as reading summaries of titles that interest you.

Link of more contemporary texts

<https://www.boredteachers.com/books/50-must-read-books-for-tenth-graders>

Link with more classic texts:

https://www.highlandhall.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=212565&type=d&pREC_ID=1693855

Other titles you might enjoy ...

A History of the World in Six Glasses , Tom Standage

Jellicoe Road , Melina Marchetta

I am Malala , Malala Yousafzai

Border Town, Shen Congwen, translated Jeffrey C. Kinkley

My Family for The War , Anne Voorhoeves, translated Tammi Reichel

Over a Thousand Hills I Want to to Walk with You , Hanna Jansen, translated Elizabeth D. Crawford

Real Time, Prida Moed Kaas

Wunderkind , Nikolai Grozni

All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

Prayers for the Stolen, Jenifer Clement

Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now, Dana Davis

Wuthering Heights , Emily Bronte

The Bridge of San Luis Rey , Thornton Wilder

David Copperfield , Charles Dickens

Dracula , Bram Stoker

Silas Marner , George Eliot

The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas