**Close study of characters from *Their Eyes Were Watching God***

for APLiterature with Bah

* Go beyond simply answering these questions. This sheet is only a guide. Your objective is to become an expert on these characters.

**Some questions to initiate your examination of your characters:**

1. Where does the character appear in the story?–try to list all scenes/sections of the book (especially weird or odd), if possible with brief paraphrase, chapters, page numbers, etc.
2. Are there any weird descriptions, analogies, metaphors, anecdotes, scenes used to describe some aspect of the character? (For instance, recall alligator-sister analogy for Joe.)
3. With whom do they appear?
4. How is the character described?
5. To whom in the story is the character connected?
6. With what objects or places would you associate this character?
7. What is the motivation, goal or objective of this character?
8. What conflicts (internal or external, explicit or implied) might this character be having?
9. Does your character achieve the goal/s they seem to pursue? Does their motivation change? (Consider how Joe’s desire for wealth is overshadowed near his death by other concerns.)
10. What key things do the characters say, or are said about them?
11. What do they do?
12. In relationship to Janie, do they assist her or block her?
13. Does the character’s relationship to Janie change?
14. What does this character represent to Janie?
15. How might the objects with which the character is associated be symbolic? What evidence is there to support these associations? How might you interpret these objects? (What do they seem to mean?)
16. Is the character symbolic? Of what? Who or what do they represent? What are the fine points of this representation? (Go beyond, for instance, saying that Joe represents greed. Why is he character (driven) like that? Whom does the character become like? Is the character isolated in this quality? etc.)
17. Does the character change?
18. Does the character’s opinion of Janie change?
19. Does her opinion of them change?
20. Who else, or what else in the novel, is connected to the character? Do parts of the book “echo” each other with respect to your character?–for instance Janie and Nanny are thematically connected through a reference to the horizon.
21. How is the author using your character in the novel? (How would the novel be different if the character was handled differently or was absent?)
22. Is Hurston’s depiction of the character realistic?
23. Write a short (several paragraphs but no more than a page) summary about your character.
24. Did you notice anything in general about the book by doing this close examination of the characters? Did you start to see how carefully crafted the book was by paying attention to even the minor characters?