FICTION: Read the passages below from the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Each passage addresses the relationship between the main character Janie and her husband, referred to both as Joe and Jody. Then answer the questions that follow by choosing the letter of the **BEST** answer. (Answers after questions—scroll down)

Selection 1:

The business of the head-rag irked7 her endlessly. But Jody was set on it. Her hair was NOT going to show in the store. It didn’t seem sensible at all. That was because Joe never told Janie how jealous he was…And one night he had caught Walter standing behind Janie and brushing the back of his hand back and forth on the loose end of it without Janie knowing what he was doing. Joe was at the back of the store and Walter didn’t see him. He felt like rushing forth with the meat knife and chopping off the offending hand. That night he ordered Janie to tie up her hair around the store. That was all. She was there in the store for *him* to look at, not those others. But he never said things like that. It just wasn’t in him.

Selection 2:

A sound of strife8 in Jody’s throat, but his eyes stared unwillingly into a corner of the room so Janie knew the futile9 fight was not with her. The icy sword of the square-toed one10 had cut off his breath and left his hands in a pose of agonizing protest. Janie gave them peace on his breast, then she studied his dead face for a long time.

“Dis sittin in de rulin’ chair is been hard on Jody,” she muttered out loud. She was full of pity for the first time in years. Jody had been hard on her and others, but life had mishandled him too. Poor Joe! Maybe if she had known some other way to try, she might have made his face different. But what that other way could be, she had no idea. She thought back and forth about what had happened in the making of a voice out of a man. Then thought about herself. Years ago, she had told her girl self to wait for her in the looking glass11. It had been a long time since she had remembered. Perhaps she’d better look. She went over to the dresser and looked hard at her skin and features. The young girl was gone, but a handsome woman had taken her place. She tore off the kerchief from her head and let down her plentiful hair. The weight, the length, the glory was there. She took careful stock of herself, then combed her hair and tied it back up again. Then she starched and ironed her face[[1]](#footnote-1)12, forming it up into just what people wanted to see, and opened up the window and cried, “Come heah people! Jody is dead. Mah husband is gone from me.”

7 irked: annoyed

8 strife: conflict

9 futile: useless

10 square-toed one: death

11 looking glass: mirror

12 starched: to use a substance that stiffens fabric while doing laundry

22. What does the head-rag worn by Janie symbolize?

* 1. her dislike of her own hair
  2. the control her husband has over her
  3. a bad hair day
  4. her fear of growing old

23. From the two passages what can the reader infer about Janie and Jody’s marriage?

a. **Janie’s** control causes conflict.

b. Jody abuses Janie and she is afraid to leave him.

c**. Jody’s** control causes conflict.

d. Janie and Jody don’t love each other anymore; they stay together out of convenience.

24. In the underlined phrase, “She starched and ironed her face…” a comparison between Janie’s face and clothing is suggested. This is an example of:

* 1. allusion c. irony
  2. metaphor d. simile

25. When Janie looks at herself and observes “The young girl was gone,”

the young girl refers to:

a. her mother c. herself

b. her daughter d. her sister

26. When Jody witnesses Walter touching Janie’s hair, he:

a. attacks Janie with a knife c. orders Janie to wear a kerchief

b. attacks Walter with a knife d. does nothing

27. Based on these two passages, the reader might expect one theme from the novel to address:

a. the horrors of racism c. the evil of witchcraft

b. rights of workers d. equality between the sexes

28. In the first passage, Jody is characterized as:

a. an understanding husband c. an envious husband

b. a patient husband d. an unfaithful husband

29. In the second passage, the mood established is one of:

a. reflection and self-awareness c. fear and alarm

b. anger and hostility d. tension and nervousness

30. The point of view of these passages is:

* 1. first person b. second person c. third person

31. Janie finally takes off the head-rag:

a. in front of Jody at the store c. alone with Walter

b. behind his back when he is not paying attention d. after Jody dies

**SCROLL DOWN FOR ANSWERS**

**22) B**

**23) C**

**24) B**

**25) C**

**26) C**

**27) D**

**28) C**

**29) A**

**30) C**

**31) D**

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)