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As Janie goes through life her search for self identity takes many turns for the worse and a few for the betters, but in the end she finds her true identity. (A Discussion)

Hurston's creation of the novel ' Their Eyes Were Watching God' depicts an Afro-American woman's series of relationship ordeals in her search of true identity. Apparently, the fated life and struggles of Janie Crawford, the story's protagonist, initiate with her realization of indifference and discrimination at a young age when the dark-complexioned of their region are set inferior in treatment to the white or the light-skinned community. Janie's lineage starting with grandmother Nanny and mother Leafy who bears her out of disgrace may be imagined to be filled with unfortunate circumstances of abuse or injustice and while Leafy's character according to the novel serves as a reflection of weakness that ran away from her obligation of potential hope, in the person of her daughter, Janie proves otherwise.

With an arranged marriage to Logan Killicks Janie, in her innocence, anticipates a loving kind of relationship only to be disillusioned by Logan's objective of acquiring a wife to be a hard-working partner in tending his farm. At this stage, readers may already sense the likelihood of a dramatic turning point bound at allowing Janie to perceive how unbearable it could get to live a life with a man she is forced into. To this extent, a picture and sentiment of a helpless girl at the verge of losing esteem and recognition of her purpose is quite poignant and the author seemingly meant to indicate an aspect of injustice toward women in the form of slavery and of violating their will or being entitled to personal decision. This is all the more aggravated by

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an overall view of gender inequality in male domination over Janie's situation as a wife.

The quest for comfort and self-worth proceeds as Janie gathers sufficient strength to leave L. Killicks and find solace and affection with Joe Starks, a lover who makes acquisition of a significant parcel of land in Eatonville on which he puts up merchandising establishment by employing the service of town inhabitants who highly approves of him and in return, entrusts him to become their mayor. Once again, Janie is about to discover herself in a position unfavorably governed and configured by her husband who restricts her image to the level that only enhances his desired reputation though at the expense of his wife's right to social freedom. Upon his loss, Janie sets out in appealing settlement of confusing distress as she makes a third encounter that would essentially be the key to refining her foundation of real character.

Her relationship with Tea Cake ends with an accidental tragedy yet Janie at this part of the story already manages to completely move on and act according to what fulfills her, not alienated from her ensuing nature. Here, the critical audience would feel enough presence of alleviation from the old self in order to build on a solid identity from which Janie may be claimed to have gotten strength when she deems it fit to defend herself against Tea Cake's unintentional attack due to illness.

Zora Neale H. likely offers a moral that a woman does not necessarily have to be in a relationship to obtain security yet it is in this process that woman like J. Crawford is able to value independence later on. Relying upon the capacity of male counterpart in Janie's case at least has been tragic but the

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novel points out as well that without such measure, Janie would not have attained to the goal she seeks to be relieved by from the beginning. By including some white women to support the side of Janie in defense during prosecution at the latter part, Hurston leads the readers to consider that the subject chiefly focuses on women empowerment, subordinating racial issue. Additionally, the novelist intended to place J. Crawford in a continuing reality of unpredictable events upon her return to Eatonville in which, after overcoming court charges and retaliation by Woods' friends she and her much improved, reformed self, must be thought of to dauntlessly deal with it all.