

Zora Neale Hurston



Born in Alabama in 1891, Hurston was the granddaughter of former slaves. She was the sixth of eight children. Her father, John Hurston, was a pastor and sharecropper, her mother a teacher. The family moved to Florida when Hurston was very young. To support herself and finance her efforts to get an education, she worked a variety of jobs, including as a maid for an actress in a touring Gilbert and Sullivan group. In 1920, Hurston earned an associate degree from Howard University, having published one of her earliest works in the university's newspaper. Hurston left Howard in 1924 and in 1925 was offered a scholarship by

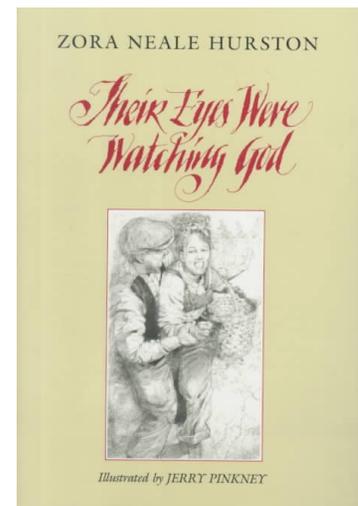
Barnard College, where she was the college's sole black student. Hurston received her B.A. in anthropology in 1928. Zora Neale Hurston became a fixture of New York City Harlem Renaissance.

Hurston's first three novels were published in the 1930s: *Jonah's Gourd Vine* (1934); *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), written during her fieldwork in Haiti and considered her masterwork; and *Moses, Man of the Mountain* (1939).

In 1937, Hurston was awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship to conduct ethnographic research in Jamaica and Haiti. *Tell My Horse* (1938) documents her account of her fieldwork studying spiritual and cultural rituals in Jamaica and "vodoun" in Haiti. In addition to continuing her literary career, Hurston served on the faculty of North Carolina College for Negroes.

She married twice; both marriages ended in divorce.

In a 1957 letter. "But ... I have made phenomenal growth as a creative artist. ... I am not materialistic... If I do happen to die without money, somebody will bury me, though I do not wish it to be that way." Later she suffered several strokes and was living in the St. Lucie County Welfare Home. The once-famous writer and folklorist died alone on January 28, 1960, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Fort Pierce, Florida. She left behind a wealth of tales and folklore literature from the African American south.



<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/harlem-renaissance>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zora_Neale_Hurston

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15151.Zora_Neale_Hurston