OUTLINE:

OPENING: Henry Louise Gates quote introducing Hurston’s contribution to “free indirect discourse.” Gates contends that the collective indirect discourse is Hurston’s unique contribution. But within the story, the personal experience is ultimately the most important, and, therefore, the personal indirect discourse, becomes the more important.

I. Establish the different narrative choices in the novel and examine how each contributes a specific dynamic to the personal and collective story.

A. 1st person

1. grandma

2. Logan

3. Joe

4. Tea Cake

5. Janie

B. 3rd person omniscient

1. front porch

2. Grandma

3. Logan

4. Jody

5. Tea Cake

6. Janie

C. 3rd person free indirect discourse, collective

1. front porch of Joe’s store

2. workers in everglades

3. courtroom audience

4. front porch at beginning (end) of story

D. 3rd person free indirect discourse, 1st person subjective

1. Grandma

a. emotional insight?

b.

2. Logan—emotional insight--selfish

a. Janie will leave him

b. feels sorry for self

3. Joe—emotional insight--selfish

a. not the big important voice he thought he was

b. Janie hasn’t appreciated him

4. Tea Cake—emotional insight--

5. Janie—emotional insight--unselfish

II. Look at how collective discourse frames/juxtaposes the personal stories and underscores gamut of human experience from the petty personal experience (Logan and Joe) to the heartbreaking (Grandmama) to the sublimely meaningful (Janie and Tea Cake).