Chapter -III

In Pursuit of Bliss and Happiness in Zora Neale Hurston’s

*Their Eyes Were Watching God.*

“There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking in my eyes. I do not mind at all. I do not belong to that sobbing school of Negroid who had that nature somehow has given them a lowdown dirty deal. Even in the helter-skelter skirmish that is my life. I have seen that the world is to the strong regardless of a little pigmentation more or less. No, I do not weep at the world – I am busy sharpening my oyster knife”

(*TEWWG* 45)

Zora Neale Hurston is one of the most important writers and anthropologist is she emerged proactive and distinctive writer during her period as it was the only time when so many artists and writers thrived. It was a gush of new views of the experiences of the Black Americans, which got a vehicle of conveyance that is art and writing. The toddler was raised in the southern part of the United States. She was in fact born in Alabama but at a very young age she moved to Florida. It was her undeterred love and quest to understand people. The way to get to know their cultures developing took her not only to New York City but also fed her with abundant inspiration to word her emotions in the form of literature packed with experiences. She climbed from a silent school in the heights of Barnard College where she pursued anthropology and
was awarded, and it was also the time when Harlem was full fledged, as her excitement packed with the feelings of her race and the likes. She kept contributing abundantly and was very fast swamped as a member of the great Harlem Renaissance. It was a streak of first milestone when her story *Spunk* was included in the then famous collection called *The New Negro*. Her assessments were an astounding depiction of her view of life. Her works were not always associated with the issues of race alone, though they were significant motifs, they were not the central themes. It is more important to read her books as a profoundly human tussle than as a Black one’s struggle, the effect of which is more fulfilling.

When the whole episode happens to be in the cetrestage of Harlem the issue of the race, is nonetheless present. Her perspective on racism was undoubtedly influenced by Franz Boas with whom she studied anthropology. He also strongly argued that ideas of race, which are culturally constructed and how skin color indicates very little with not much innate alteration. Racism is a cultural force that individuals can either struggle against or even willed to rather than a mentality which is rooted in demonstrable facts. The Crux of Hurston’s search of self is where in the journey of coming of age through the swamps of Florida there arises an astute underpinning of an awakening. It may not have emancipated from the slave narrative or an unavoidable burst into the post colonial discource. It might not even be a excruciating processing towards that of modernity and that of its inevitable literary endowment of that of the Black women’s autonomy as that of an American woman. Where in the search
of her protagonist’s self, and that of the very entity being very passionately
engulfed in her own quest for mere survival, her works are not always
supplementary with issues of race, though they are profusely noteworthy
motifs, but they are not central themes.

The childhood of Zora Neale Hurston’s was for sure one of bliss and
harmony as in the small town in which her father was a minister. He helped her
to lead a highly privileged position as the esteemed mayor’s daughter and it let
her to believe that she had a special destiny: “My Soul Was With The Gods and
My body in the Village”. (DTOTR 23) Hurston was fantasied to Athena, who
was born of her father’s head, a unique child of imagination, who always
insisted on creating her own inimitable identity. Although she grew up to
become a graduate of anthropology, she must have had a strong motivating
factor of her own mythologizing tendency and also strongly or importunately
believed that a fantasy tale about her genesis in the first all Black town, In fact
suited her purposes as a special individual. Robert Hemnway her biographer
calls her as a “Woman of fierce Independence” and as someone who “was a
complex woman with a high tolerance of contradiction”. She was an exceptional
woman with the capacity and the skill in the art of “masking” disguising her
inner life for her own purposes.

During the time of Hurston’s writing, numerous voices whose ideas and
opinions which were widely expressed had a call for gifted Black writers to
enable them to use their talents to contribute towards themes of Protest
Literature. Right from the days of Phillis Wheatley who was one of the first
well known Black poets, during the time of slavery the talented Black writers used their skills to fight to counter racism which was their major role. Their literature makes a genuine attempt to challenge the conditions which were comforting all Blacks. It was considered to be stressing the excellence of all the people who exposed the psychological and physical brutality, with the stance of being ironic. A country which is proud of being democratic and religious, the brutal reality of slavery, segregation and discrimination in fact is a sign of strong irony. A Theory of Africa. An American Literary Criticism observed:

“Zora Neale Hurston is the first writer that our generation of black and feminist critics has brought into the canon, or perhaps I should say the cannons. For Hurston is now a cardinal figure in the Afro American cannon, and the canon of Afro American fiction, especially as our readings of her work become increasingly close readings, which Hurston’s texts sustain delightfully. The curious aspects of widespread critical attention being shown to Hurston’s texts is that so many critics embracing such a diversity of theoretical approaches seem to find something new at which to marvel in her texts.”  (*TNAAAL*, 180)

An objective study of her novel *Their Eyes are Watching God*, reveals that this work has its roots in her autobiographical experience. And she comments on the supremacy of white masters:
“The devil is not the terror that he is in European folklore. He is a powerful trickster who often competes successfully with God. There is a strong suspicion that the devil is an extension of the story maker while God is the supposedly impregnable white masters, who are nevertheless defeated by the Negroes.”

(TEWWG, 307)

Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes were Watching God* has almost been undisputedly in its supposition that Janie Crawford accomplishes a powerful and self-governing cultural power of speech as a result of her proficiencies. Critics also agree that Janie’s achievement of voice is categorically a key element in her subsequent self-possession. Barbara Johnson, for example argues that Janie’s increasing ability to speak grows out of her ability not to mix inside with outside” (*TNAAAL*, 173). Actually Janie’s self-discovery depends on her knowledge to deploy language. Her success is announced in the novel’s preface when, as an acquaintance listens in engrossed attention, Janie begins to tell her own story. A third instance of the conflation of the accomplished voice and studied self-possession is “Janie discovers her own soul only through the art of storytelling, thus intimating the artist’s accountability to, and dependence on, the larger community” (*TMACC*, 110). Finally it is pertinent to note here that the converging theme in the novel is exposed in the soul excruciating experiences of her life with husbands who could never upsurge above the sexual politics with all its strategies and devices
that undermine all the pure emotional state and sentiments of a woman in quest of pure love.

The novel *Their Eyes were watching God* thematically explores the journey into inferiority and right from how Janie makes her way from that of a young innocent girl who awakens and comprehends her own sexual signs to the development of a mature woman. Nonetheless she has travelled far and wide as she moves through three husbands and comes back to her beginning point. Literally speaking her pathway in geography of Florida figuratively shows how she descends into her own self, in the process understanding who she actually is and how sex becomes a significant part, but is not the end or all about satisfying or lasting marital life and love. The author also goes on to take the readers in the interpretation of the book’s enigmatic title *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which is a way to thematically demonstrate the hierarchy power of Hurston leaves no chance of interrogation, that God is in charge. She drives home the fact that God’s power is greater than that of white men. In the process of doing so, she challenges the contemporary notion that was prevalent that the Black writers should use their potential to portray the injustices meted out to the Blacks by the White Americans. As a celebrated writer, she was happy that she did not belong to the band of sobbing neighbours and was pleased to stand tall. She was talented to see that in the midst of her own people there was so much to be understood and renowned.
The author in fact goes on to use the story of her protagonist as a means by which she explores thematically the kind of treatment that was meted out to women and the role they played in uplifting themselves. The protagonist of Maya, Janie married, married again, widowed and married yet again. Nearly about eighty percent of what the book showcases the protagonist's life in marital state, but still makes room to be alone and comes to understand freedom and also to hang on to that freedom once she remarries. In order to portray to the readers Janie’s development of a woman are portrayed through the images of trees, leaves and branches along with buds and blossoms and bees which powerfully conveys womanhood. The masculine genders and the mules are used to highlight or indicate the treatment to women. In fact mules do literally appear with her husbands Joe and Logan. In her episode with their first husband, she is made to work with the mules, but fortunately in her experience with her second husband, she spared the ceremonious surrounding the mules but that very aspect excludes her from her community as well.

One of the most vital aspects of the novel is signifying, a form of oral wordplay as she is an anthropologist. An unsurprisingly unique and rightfully a Black literature, as it deals with their culture which tells the story of the protagonist, Janie Crawford and her three husbands Logan Killicks, Jody Sparks and Tea Cake. In fact life of the beautiful, middle aged self assured Black women Janie Crawford’s life takes place in rural Florida in the 1930’s. The very opening of the story tells how she walks into the town after years have gone by and she is jointly recognizable by the people of the town, and
hence her striding back home creates a flutter. The women folk in the locality naturally looks at her with contempt. But the men go on to nonchalantly gawk and admire her immaculate beauty and gape at her gorgeous physique, and naturally she becomes the topic of gossip among the women folk. In the unfriendly home town she finds only an old compatriot friend by name Pheoby who stands by her and provides her with food. Not only settles providing refreshment to Janie, but makes her aware of mean speculations about her in the town which Janie finds humorous. It is only at this juncture that she takes up the role of a narrator and goes about narrating her story. That is the period that she is away from her hometown and her close friend Pheoby. Though she is not the sole narrator of the novel, she does narrate certain episodes of the story. The narration in fact ends at the end of the story and is in fact recapitulated. Remarking on the converging title and significance theme of the novel bell hooks observes:

“Like many readers I have often thought Their Eyes Were Watching God most fascinating because of the way it challenges conventional sexist notions of woman’s role in marriage and romantic love, insisting on the importance of female self-actualization. I too have celebrated Hurston’s fictional portrait of love between a black woman and man. Critical attention has necessarily focused on these aspects of the novel. So intensely, however, that readers are inclined to overlook Hurston’s concern with the construction of female imagination” and the formation
of a critical space where woman’s creativity can be nurtured and sustained. These concerns radically inform the structure of Their Eyes Were Watching God and its narrative direction. They can be fully addressed only if readers no longer centralize Janie’s relationships with men. Strategically, the focus on romance is a device Hurston uses to engage reader’s while subtly interjecting a subversive narrative”. (Hooks, 245)

The story line goes thus how Janie was brought up by her grandmother whom she called Nanny. In fact, it was this Nanny who takes up both the role of the father and mother as they are physically absent. During her adolescent period she was carried away by the monsoon climate and as her age warrants is sexually drawn to a local boy named Johnny Taylor, which naturally puts her into trouble along with her Nanny, who happens to witness her behavior. She hastily decides to marry her off to a much older man named Logan Killicks who is an absolute stranger to Janie. Hence, she totally disagrees with her grandmother and refuses to marry him. But Nanny convinces her on how she is trying to make her lifestyle and insure safety before she dies and assures her that it is possible only by the affluent middle – aged Farmer. Nanny sensing the strong discontent in Janie tried to convince her by recounting her own difficulties in the past. Her life is one of the olden times when slavery was prevalent and she was born into slavery having nostalgia that is very painful of her upbringing stage, but unfortunately life as she believed, did not spare her even in the later stages as she was raped by her master and as a result of the
rape she produced a child named Leafy. Leafy is the mother of Janie but whom Janie has never met. Having been bashed up to the core of extinction swamped in adversity it did not end with the physical abuse she had faced at the hands of the master. The irony was once Leafy was born, the master’s wife on seeing the grey eyes and the straight hair, instantly knew that her husband had fathered the child. The woman did not take it lightly, nor did she confront them, instead she was angered and as a result, she had planned to sell off Leafy and have Nanny whipped violently. But fortunately before the malicious act was carried out Nanny escaped into the swamps with her child. After she became a free woman she found a new job with the washburns. Right out of the clutches of slavery, Nanny visualized a glorious life for Leafy one much better than her own. But to add up to the woes of the envisaged mother, she was shattered when her little girl Leafy at the age of seventeen was raped by her school teacher. Once again history had repeated itself as Leafy was pregnant with Janie. It was not taken hushed or in a composed manner, but instead let loose and started straying all nights and intoxicating herself with liquor. At the nerve’s end she left Janie with her mother and left forever. Again and again, retelling her story Nanny becomes very successful in tilling Janie the security of being married. A sense of convincing Nanny make Janie see an eye to eye with the concept of marriage. Hence, Janie falls a convincing victim and accepts to marry Logan. As her Nanny tells her that love will come after marriage, she too is convinced that older people’s experiences are better and marries Logan. But she realizes that whatever said and done the secured
married life does not make her fall in love with Logan as she finds him ugly. When she goes to her Nanny with the issue, Nanny is more defensive and advises her to be more appreciative of the man’s wealth and breathes her last.

With no alternative choice or soul for support left, she learns to cope with the situation and stands living amicably, but the tragedy slowly builds momentum. Not only looking crude he expects her to slog her life out as he wants her not only to stick to the kitchen, but to partake in all the day to day activities of the burdening chores. But accepting and succumbing to her later and following instructions did not keep them happy as they were fighting at the drop of a hat. Once when Logan sets off on a trip to buy a mule for Janie to aid in her farm activities, Janie happens to meet a well dressed and attractive stranger sauntering down the road and decides to meet him. The stranger’s name was Joe Starks, she flirt’s with Joe and comes to know that he is from Georgia. Joe also had grand plans to build and run a new town in Florida. Unlike that of her husaband Logan the stranger’s eloquence and objectives drew her towards him, not only because he was more interesting, but because he was more ambitious and not a manual worker like Logan.

According that of Janie her husband Logan represents the authoritarian class, who simply formulates rules she has to comply with. He expects her to be with him at every beck and call. But as the time goes by the comfort level between Joe sparks and Janie grows, she stops tugging the line of her husband. When Logan commands her to come and help to move piles of manure, instead of fooling around in the kitchen, Janie gets infuriated and retaliates by
saying. “You don’t need mah help outdere, Logan. Youse in yo’ place and Ah’m in mine”. But without a moment to spare he reverts at her immediately by saying “you ain’t got no particular place It’s whenever Ah need Yuh” (TEWWG 31).

But as Joe Starks settles comfortably in the place and as the acquaintance builds up Janies dream for real love blossoms as they convey secretly more often and he is so overwhelming that he takes her breath away and impresses her with his grades. Janie as time goes by is not able to cope with the attitude of Logan, who belittles and slurs her for not helping him with the farm work and Janie squelches by threatening him that she will run away if the harassment continues. It was only when the stranger Jody, Joe Starks as addressed by Janie asks her to become his wife, she immediately accepts the proposed and sets off to Eatonville Florida. A small new town which occupies a few stacks and a town that did not have a Mayor. Jody buys two acres of land and plans to build two structures, a store and a post office. He goes on to beautify the town, hence asks the opinion of the people of the town on how to go about it. One of the townsmen Tony Taylor becomes the chairman of the assembly even though Jody plays the pivotal role. Two important personalities of the town Coker and Taylor make the plans of Jody to become a reality by building the store and post office. Jody with his kind of Power and Money immediately became the mayor of Eatonville. But the people of the town are more bothered about his bossy and descending motif. It is not Jody who captures the attention of the town mates, but also Janie. They start looking at
her with contempt and jealousy, since she had absolutely everything like a powerful man who lived in a two stored new house with elaborate things. They felt that the man by screening off his affluence was punning on their lower class status. Jody is forbidding and his punishment is out of restrictions that it irks the people of the town beyond limits. The gossip by the townspeople about Jody and his wife begin to float into introspection on how she could stay with such an overbearing and condescending man.

In reality, there is a lot of truth in the gossip that goes around in town and it is definitely not empty gossip as Jody is an embodiment of Johnny. He is a highly overbearing man and it is Janie who takes full brunt of it, mentally, verbally and physically, as he treats his wife like thrash. He anticipates her to be very responsible about taking care of the store. To add up to her woe’s as she gains some pleasure listening to the gathered audience outside the shop, she is badly rebuked for it. As Jody is infuriated by her actions he strictly warns her that she should not interact with thrashy people their marriage is clearly in trouble. Jody in fact goes on to make it clear that she should not leave her hair loose as it will make her look all the more attractive to the men folk. It turned out that Jody is in fact ten times worse than her first husband Logan.

The irony of it all is that the Joe Starks or Jody, who was first introduced in the novel was a very decent and respectable man by a woman with his alluring goals, his smooth tongue and his overall presence. The chairman of Janie is however non existent after marriage. He is now right the opposite where he mortifies her in public assessment, belittles her, batters her flesh into
submission and speaking to her as though she is a child are very few of the
most rotten characters that he had developed or had surfaced from his inner self
enough reasons for him to be despised. Janie instantly goes through the pain of
disrespect when he abuses her and makes derogatory comments, when by
chance she misplaces a bill. She is able to feel the vibes that he does not like
her to be an equal, but only as a subordinate who takes his orders and an animal
who reports at his bid and call, and his comments are more than just powerful.
“Somebody got to think for women and chillun and chickens and cows.”
(TEWWG 70). followed by an even more bad-mannered comment highlighting
her lack of intelligence. “When Ah see one thing Ah understands ten. You see
ten things and don’t understand one”. (TEWWG 70). Though the love Janie had
on Jody since their marriage had been diminishing slowly, and tremendously,
the treatment meted out to Janie goes a step further and shatters every piece of
love she had for him. The episode that broke her even further through her
depressed state was Jody beating her up after seven years of their marriage.
“He slapped Janie until she had ringing sound in her about her brains before he
stalked back to the store”. (TEWWG 69).

All these were the repercussions of nothing blasphemous or non
committal but for not having prepared dinner that was appetizing to the man.
As years rolled by the highly unacceptable marriage affected her mental state
which resulted in making her believe that she was unattractive. Jody himself
being unattractive as he was looking very old, and as his body drooped and
had bulges, more apparent that he has problems moving around. Conversion of
inferiority into superiority complex, in order to mask his own appearance, he
takes pleasure in portraying Janie as unattractive and a jib at her age. But she is
not stupid and understands this is a gambit to make her believe that she too is in
a similar position of ugliness and old age, in reality that is not the case. But as
the health of Jody continues to deteriorate, he attacks her more vicious and
more frequently. On one such juncture when he bouts her verbally she too
looses her cool and being highly infuriated lashes out at him by being caustic
about his sagging body.

Wounded very deeply and ego hurt badly, Jody hurts Janie badly and
chases her away from the store. The damage by that time was done beyond
redemption, thanks to the sharp words of Janie, his reputation deteriorates
badly. They are mentally separated and live in different rooms. But by then the
well-being of Jody deteriorates and his state becomes dire. Pheoby brings her
the grapevine about how the townspeople suspect her to be slowly pointing her
husband, the cause of his illness. But the doubt is dispelled when Janie calls in
a doctor for diagnosis and that her husband. On checking with the doctor
diagnose and ascertains that Jody’s kidney has failed and it will subsequently
lead to his demise. Jody becomes very miserable and dejected when he is told
about ominous fate and position. Though Janie feels sad for his position, she
does not feel sorry and takes time in telling him about the way he had ill-
treated her and how he was domineering and violent. The helpless Jody asks
her to stop abusing him and have pity on him as he was on his death bed. But
she did not mend her ways. And his end came shortly thereafter. It is at this
juncture with a sense of freedom that she stands before the mirror and assess herself, frees her hair from its rag – bondage and realizes that she is still attractive and then she goes to the window and shrieks out with a guise of grief that Jody is dead. She sends off her husband with an elaborate funeral. She then carries a mourning face for the outside world, but in fact feels relieved and happy inside. In fact the towns’ people see only one change in her and that is she wearing her long hair out. In reality with her beauty and wealth, several men approach her, but she pays absolutely no heed for them. In fact Janie is as contented and happy with her freedom as no suitor comes close to her expectations in the next six months and if fact she is blissfully enjoying her freedom and peace.

But destiny would have it the course of her new journey starts when she happens to meet a stranger who came to her store to buy cigarettes. He begins to flirt and joke with her, which precipitates laughter from Janie. Later she finds out that his name is Veritable Woods, but he says everyone calls him Tea Cake. They enjoy each other’s company and he helps her close up the company at night. To some degree her prior husbands were unsuccessful in accomplish was executed by Tea Cake. The relationship between that of Tea Cake and Janie is accompanied with equality, laughter and honesty. Janie goes on to upraise her love with him over her two marriages where she nurtures it to a spiritual level of calls Tea Cake a “glance from God”. The people of the town get annoyed by Tea Cake usurping her time and attention. That was the time which turns out to be the first instance in the life, Janie where she makes her
own decision and not going by the commands of her Nanny, the second marriage was the only flight from slavery of a kind. She goes on to confide all these to her close friend Pheoby and is happy and relaxed over the new control over her life. They two of them go on to get married, but the third husband leaves Janie in a boarding house and spends her two hundred dollars and parties. On his return, confronting him of stealing her money, they finally vow to each other level of trust and commitment. Tea Cake, vows to make a living on his earning and returned the money he stole. They move towards the Marsh, where he plans to work in the Everglades.

The new couple becomes the center of attraction in the Marsh as Janie willingly takes up working along with him. She worked it out so well and gained the appreciation of the man who would put her beside him and not behind him. Nunkie is another attractive woman who draws the attention of Tea Cake. They argue it out, but in the end she fully well realizes that he loves only her. As things roll by Mrs. Turner becomes a close friend of Janie, which is not a favorable gesture for Tea Cake. He warns Janie against the friendship, but successfully plots, acts friendly and is victorious in chasing Mrs. Turner out of the town. When a hurricane was on its way, too late, they make their way out of the Muck. A rabid dog tries to attack Janie, Tea Cake kills the dog by plunging his knife into the dog, unfortunately not before being bitten on the face. In the aftermath of the storm plans to visit a doctor is delayed, but by then huge damage is done. The poison had got into his brain and it was too late for the lifesaving serum to work. Frustrated that saving her life was the caused him
of his unfortunate end, he aims a gun at her. But unfortunately in order to save her own life she exterminates him. She is immediately filed, but is released by an amazing speed as a jury comprising of white men declare her innocent after a five minute deliberation. Again she organizes an expensive, lavish and huge funeral, for two different reasons, one was that she did not want misunderstanding about the death of Tea Cake and she herself wanted the good will of his friends which she wanted to carry. More importantly, she conducted it for herself as he was been in the blossom. Not only they loved each other, but that she still loved him. The forfeiture was multifold that she could not withstand longer in the Muck. Cultivation good will from friends she returns to the place where she began, Eatonville she has come a whole big round. Having found true love. She will blissfully live with his memories as long as she could cherish it. The truth is that she has been to the horizon and discovered what life and love is.

The journey of discovery that the protagonist undertakes begins at the gatepost of the house of her grandmother and runs through the course dominating finally the bedroom of the house which was her inherited property from a twenty year marriage. The various plots in the novel begin with the protagonist walking out of the house in search of green pasterns, here Janie only craves for true love. But she does not take any hurried resolution, as she has always chosen a man when the going gets tough and only craves and harps for the love and affection and not any materialistic gains. Unlike how her Nanny set a life for her thinking it will be secure only of the man is wealthy
and propertied. Each and every man that she takes up not only gives her a loved life, but also enriches her knowledge of the outside world. And this intelligence that she gathers through the course of her life brings her to the former house, where she had experienced so many hardships in life. This novel is a prototype the hardship and search of the African American women who were seeking their self and their voice.

As there were two reformist movement during that time that is women’s liberation and civil rights movements, most of the female writers did not try to highlight racism and stayed docile, whereas male writers stuck to their sexist ideas of women’s role. All these during the time when the race actually needs an upheaval or strong voices to express their views. As the African American women were finding themselves to be degenerating into voice less existence and was intimidating aware of the need to regain their voice. It was during this time that a character like Janie Crawford was created who was an embodiments of an articulate, powerful, self – reliant and radically different from any women characters they have ever encountered in literature. It is not their eyes as the title suggests it is the only strong protagonist, Janie Crawford, who as a young girl is confronted with the desire of her grandmother who often reassures her that she has everything unlike her own childhood which was quite strange and unfathomable for Janie to digest.

As in the standard of *Bildungsroman* she does not have any affection from her parents, but is brought up only under the umbrella of her Nanny, who is not only her guardian, but also the godmother who advises her and
channelizes her tells her about the safe situations in life and continuously hoping that marriage is the only guarantee to a secluded and safe future. Just being blindly guided by the Nanny she marries the ancient Logan Killicks, though he does not see any positivity or does it look glossy. And she was not see eye to eye with the Nanny who always thought that the state of getting married and settling down is a privilege what only the white people gets to enjoy in life. A kind of status clubbed with financial security which is never ever enjoyed by a Black woman even in her life. She advises Janie, “Honey de white man is de ruler of everything as fur as Ah been able tuh find out”.

(*TEWWG* 29). Nanny strongly believed that the white man treated his wife nicely, “Unlike the Black men who beats up the wife. She is pictured a life of what the plantation wife had when Nanny was a slave ah was born back due in slavery so it wasn’t for me to fulfill my dreams of what a woman ought be and do” (*TEWWG* 31).

The astonishing Arcadia that Nanny visualized and prayed and wished for Janie to come true only after her death when Jody starks comes into her life and makes it blissful and glossy. It is he who secures Nanny’s basic materialism into bourgeois aspirations. In fact, Jody is a classic example of “Black Bourgeoisie” who strongly believed that acquisitions of wealth and status will, certainly in some, way make them closer to the white culture which taught them they were inferior. But luck favors Janie as in all the communities of the Blacks of Eatonville. Though they go to my place as simple and less privileged they rise to success very fast and becomes one of the French
Sociologist termed as “Colored Rabbit”. She did not leave Joe his money, but only embarks on her journey in search of love and a sense of adventure in fact she was sure that. “the change was bound to do her good” (TEWWG 54). It is from this point she starts marching forward alone making her decisions alone and choosing what is right for her alone. She did not take the chance hastily and jump to a wrong place, she was for sure wise in making her decision as Jody was an ambitious, hardworking and basically good natured but he has seen the world as a bourgeois and conventional. The finesse of it all is that he has collected or earned a lot of possessions and the finest or the crowning glory of it all is his wife Janie, whom he proudly shows off like a trophy and cherishes her adorning his elegant and beautiful house to match his status in society. But it was Jody who went all out to place Janie on a high pedestal, and think in lines with Nanny, which she always worded as “class off” Janie rather than being perched on a pedestal like a trophy thwarts his attempts and confuses him. He as such believes that Janie as the wife of the mayor should act more like a white woman, Jody, like that of the Black bourgeoisie.

A stream of people. “Who strove to make themselves over in the image of the white man” (TEWWG 47). The aim was to change his own community into one that could be compared to the white folks who live on the other side of the road. Probing for her distinctiveness Janie is the richest element of the novel. As the novel advanced, she becomes self-reliant and very powerful as she traverses across her journey of life from being controlled by men to being independent and self-assertive. Ultimately, she establishes her stance as she
learns to separate her private self from her public life till the point she finally gets the opportune moment to combine the two. At the same time she does not seem be ever portrayed in the negative she is only seen as a positive image of the Black woman who was able to reject conformity and security and at the same time she is a woman who is able to control her life in her own terms.

Janie in her journey with three relationships with men, is in quest of identifying herself. In fact, she fights the influences of her grandmother, who harps on security and encourages her to sacrifice self – fulfillment. It is Logan and Tea Cake who goes all out to stifle her development. Her second husband does take good care of her and gives her the kind of life her grandmother visualized for her. The owner and the most important person of the town her second husband who rose to the position holding hands with Janie, has in fact a negative impact on her growth as his middle-class objectives turn her into a symbol of his stature in the town. Her freedom is curtailed and she is not allowed to act according to her own fancy and be herself. She is in fact made to conform to his notions of propriety. The tragedy was that she was supposed to tag only his contour and that she cannot enjoy the small little conversation with the towns’ folk on the porch, let alone participate in it. She gets her first blow right after he is elected as major. She was asked to address the gathering and say a few words of encouragement, but the Mayor was not happy with the idea and immediately interrupts the applause and tells the towns people. “Man wife don’t know nothin’ bout no speech – makin’. Ah never married her for her nothin’ lak dat. She’s uh woman and her place is in de home.” (TEWWG 77).
She feels cold and realizes her stance as he had prevented her from deciding for herself if she wanted or not to give a speech. There began her journey where she had to busy her own desires to the point, whereby she loses sight of them totally. She regains her freedom and identity and evolves as a new individual only after the death of Jody. It is only after Tea Cake enters her life she realizes what all she missed all along and she only catered to the needs of Jody and the town flock’s needs. In order to establish her identity, she defines all their ideas for her future and married a younger man. Her new relationship helps her find her true individual identity. Though it’s a big hue and cry for the town, she opts for a life of adventure and self-realization. Though she feels it is freedom and self-revelation and voices out her feelings. “Once upon uh time, Ah never spected nothin’, tea, cake, but beins dead from the standin still and tryin’ to laugh” “But you come ‘long and made something’ out me”. (TEWWG 33)

Is she on the journey of discovering herself or is she ready to be blissfully molded by the men she choose, or must a woman often be reaffirmed that she must find herself on her own. There is something that she regrets all her life she kills him in self-defense. She had finally come to a full circle in her development of the self and the search for identity and finally knows who she is and how she found peace. In fact at the end of the novel she accepts that “She pulled in her horizon like a great find - net” (TEWWG 34). Showcasing and telling the world what she has attained and also indicating that she no longer needs a man for her to seek her identity, outside herself in the world. She has as a final point found it within herself.
“Ships at a distance have everyman’s wish on board. For some they come in with the tide. For others they sail forever on the horizon, never out of sight, never landing until the watcher turns his eyes away in resignation, his dreams mocked to death by time. That is the life of men. Now, women forget all those things they don’t want to remember, and remember everything they don’t want to forget. The dream is the truth. Then they act and do things accordingly”. (TEWWG 1)

This is a novel portraying a female protagonist, she establishes a fundamental difference between men and woman. The basic idea that men and women need certain things from each other is often reiterated throughout the novel. As an endowed individual she expects a man who can complement her in every way possible and replenish her with all those that she lacks in life. And all the three men Logan, Jody and Tea Cake for the best try to fill during their respective relationship with her. The thematic concern of the novel is foreshadowed by the fact about the woman protagonist being better Bildungsroman heroines rather than male protagonists. It conveys the point that men will never really reach for their dreams, whereas women have the ability to take control of their wills and embark on chasing their dreams. Thus, one of the aspects of coming of age of the Bildungsroman protagonist is fulfilled to the crust as the novel unfolds as she acts according to this notion, where she emerges in the direction of her dreams after a lot of battling and struggling.
The second most important aspect of the *Bildungsroman* is the biographical element. The novel for sure contains a lot of such biographical elements. Zora Neale Hurston herself grew up in Eatonville, Florida one of the most significant settings of the novel. Zora herself has a lot of fond memories of the time she spent growing up in an all-Black. A settlement which was the first in the nation. She brings back the town to life with all its delights and flaws. Her mother always encouraged her to dream big, but her father was the kind of conventionalist who was always afraid that she would offend the White society by her attitude or deeds, hence he often kept punishing her for her being brash and bold. This is the same scenario that Janie feels at various juncture in the novel. In spite of the fact that Nanny gets paranoid about Janie’s future and as a smart play traps Janie into a loveless and unfulfilling marriage, Nanny is in fact a reflection of Zora’s mother. Nanny always turned out to be a reflection of Zora’s mother. In fact Nanny tells her: “Ah was born back due in slavery so it wasn’t for me to fulfill my dreams of what a woman ought to be and to do. Dat’s one of the hold – backs of slavery. But nothing can’t stop you from wishin’. You can’t beat nobody down so low till you can rob’ em of they will”. *(TEWWG 42).*

In all kinds of way throughout the novel people only want to suppress Janie whereas she only wants to be herself. This factor Zora’s mother would have definitely approved and be satisfied to Zora’s father, John himself was the Mayor of Eatonville for three terms and she was a proud daughter. It was this aspect of her life that was reproduced in the form of Janie’s husband, Joe
sparks, and who pronounces himself Mayor of Eatonville. It was Zora’s mother, Lucy Ann Pohs Hurston did not never or fantasy John Hurston, who was honored by everybody else, though she was the force behind the man, who was shaping him into the model major and a citizen. In fact, her mother told her that “the one who makes the idols never worships them, however tenderly he might have molded the clay”. (*TEWWG* 42).

This was how the Janie’s relationship with Joe would be described and he always hated the fact that she did not give him the due credit and did worship him like how the whole town did Joe Starks or Jody is very well described in the novel picturising the father of Zora Neale Hurston. Zora and her mother bowed down to John Hurston because he was all the things just because the whole town bowed down to him. It was this aspect or attitude that came in-between Janie and Jody that in fact killed their love.

When Zora Neale Hurston’s mother died and her father remarried again, the great second wife did not want anything to do with his eight children from the first wife. Virtually Zora became an orphan and was tossed around the family and was made to attend school sporadically. This is exactly the state that Janie finds herself at the beginning of the novel. Zora Neale Hurston was also a dreamer who preferred to read and trot the world, and this aspect is reflected in the protagonist Janie quiet blatantly. Just like Janie, Zora herself did not have a lot of success in her relationships. Zora too married twice and divorced and she too had one younger love who expected too much from her. Zora used to write about him saying that her work was one aspect of her and his love was all the
rest of her. She paid so much weightage to him, though a partially paid due respects to the profession. But being typically masculine, he wanted her whole being, all to himself or wanted nothing at all. This aspect is very well replicated in the novel, which is certainly very much more recognizable in all the three men who were part of Janie’ life.

Hence it is very difficult to prove that there is no autobiographical element in the novel. Zora reflections are seen even at the end of the novel as a kind of prediction about her own life and how she would be received by her own community. In real life when she returns back to her town after individualism, uniqueness, biographical element, psychological, realization, human potential and the likes. She got of a life completing her journey of life she is also gossiped about and scorned a lot. But in reality, in real life the reception she received was even worse as she was vilified by the community of African Americans.

The third aspect of the Bildungsroman that the novel fulfills is the psychological aspect. Janie’s experience reflects the psychological turmoil’s she undergoes as a Black and as a female in the south during the early twentieth century. She plays her role both as a vital part of a community and also as an outsider in that same community by virtue of her choices and her gender. She proves that ‘Who’ is a fighter and rises above her circumstances. Black American have been for centuries addressed as the ‘mules of the world’ and also as ‘Slave of a slave’. It was pathetic to mention their status as one that was wretched ones on earth. Uprooted and planted, trying to gain roots was
sounding near impossible, but they were wading through the troubled waters. Double marginalization, the very word was self-explanatory that feminism was far-fetched. The condition of a Black woman in exile was much more worsened. Her very vital virtues were violated. Her silence was not only her own but also that of the whole oppressed class. Here the woman had to fight against sexism and racism. In fact the very term as Black Feminist would not fit my characters they sounded implausible and problematic. As Alice Walker always voiced out that they wanted to change the word feminist into womanist. As the woman did not want to turn against the men of their community. But again they had to fight the cause and prove successful as ‘Who’ is a fighter. Not against their own men alone but at the society at large. A naïve little girl who goes in search of her identity and self-exploration returns as a psychologically mature and stable adult who does not get excited or bogged down by the pleasures or the trials and tribulations of life. In fact, she is saddened, but not defeated at the nub of her long lake, she tells her age old companion Phoeby to be considerate and not to be harsh on those who have been gossiping so early upon her return to Eatonville. ‘Two things everybody’ got tuh do folk themselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find out about livn’ full themselves.’ (TEWWW 9)

“The concept of the simultaneity of oppression is still the crux of a Black feminist understanding of political reality and, I believe, one of the most significant ideological contributions of Black feminist thought.” (Smith, 9) here the concept of how ‘who’ is to succeed in the war or plain simple who is ready
to raise their voice and hand in participating in the altruistic combat.

Intersectionality front-runs the way toward a much sophisticated level of understanding of the character of subjugation than that established by classical Marxists, facilitating the further development of the ways in which solidarity can be built between all those who writhe subjugation and exploitation under free enterprise to falsify a unified undertaking. The perception of intersectionality is not a nonrepresentational notion but a description of the way multiple oppressions are experienced. Undeniably, Crenshaw uses the following analogy, denoting to a traffic intersection, or crossroad, to concretize the concept. The psychological battle of Janie is not hers alone but that of the womanist at large.

She finds out the meaning of life and hence is at peace with herself to the outside. But through the eyes of Erik. Erik Son’s theory of psychosocial stages the world Famous psychologist Albert Bandura feels that she exhibits a lack of nomad and healthy psychological development. He feels that in order to succeed in life, people need to possess a sense of self – efficacy and to struggle together with together along with resilience to meet the so called inevitable obstacles and inequalities in life. Janie in fact exhibits lack of intimacy throughout most of her life contribute and an inability to develop a sense of self. This is because of controlling and unfulfilling relationships with that of her primary caregiver in the childhood, the characters of Nanny and her two husbands Logan and Joe. However, Janie interesting by is able to recover from the setbacks that occurred in her development stages when she falls in love
with Tea Cake, who lets her to flourish both emotionally and mentally. It was during her adolescence that the inequities of Janie’s life are first revealed. The point where the story begins. As she blossoms into womanhood, she discovers her sexuality and sees the world in a brand new light. “She was sixteen she glossy leaves and bursting buds and to struggle with life… she seeking confirmation of the voice and vision, and everywhere she finds answers”.

(TEWWG 11).

Her first attempt to find out who she is with Johnny Taylor which is a spontaneous attempt to experience romance, but the attempt is squashed right at the starting point itself by her Nanny. After having unforgivingly terminated from exploring the horizons created by Nature and revel in the glory of adolescences to foster a sense of self, brewing within her she is forced in the adulthood. This sudden procedure leaves her confused is life, she is deprived of the chance to achieve self-discovery. Janie the young woman enters marriage bewildered and once her dream is dead she becomes a woman. As is the way of the world, womanhood brought developmental hurdles for Janie, which, according to the psychological phenomenon is the monumental challenge of the twin stages of intimacy versus the isolation. It is essential at this point of time in their lives, young adults seek love and companionship. If they happen to fail to achieve, they recoil and quickly find themselves feeling isolated. Janie the protagonist searching for identity epitomizes this in her relationship with Joe. Though in the beginning he appears to be the perfect Mr. Right of her dreams, a young chap well dressed and amorphous he is the only solace and wondrous
savior who helps her escape from the dreaded life as Logan’s wife. As the glory of the marriage weans away, the love between Joe and Janie faded and his real self-ready to assert his dominance upon Janie kept on increasing. “The spirit of the marriage left the bedroom and took to living in the parlor… she had no more blossomy openings dusting pollen over her man… she found that she had multitudes of thoughts that she never expressed to him, and numerous emotions she had never let Jody know about” (TEWWG 72).

He turned out to be such a domineering character as he forced her to work all the time in the store, stopping her from socializing with the townspeople and making her put up her hair only aids in Janie recoiling and isolating herself. That she was unaffected by Jody’s death, she kind of became ruthless and almost remorseless. She did not want her zestfulness corrupted by any memory of him.

“Janie starched and ironed her face and came set in the funeral behind her veil. It was like a wall of stone and steel. The funeral was going on outside. All things concerning death and burial were said and done. Finish, End, Nevermore, Darkness, Deep hole, Dissolution, Eternity, Weeping and wailing outside. Inside the expensive Black folds were resurrection and life. She did not reach out side for anything, nor did the things of death reach inside to disturb her calm. She sent her face to Joe’s funeral, and herself went rollicking with the springtime across the world.”

(TEWWG 85)
The death of her second husband did nothing to hurt her, but only nourished her budding independence. As a woman with a lot of insights and zeal she aspires to be free and sees to it that negativity and death does not penetrate her. Her relationship with Jody was exactly what her grandmother has envisaged for her, but as destiny would mock at it Jody’s demise only gave Janie relief. Psychologically, she is maturing and does understand about most of the things getting under. She strongly despised her grandmother in a very stubborn manner, but as she matures, she understands why her Nanny was able to see life is a different perspective and the reason behind why she preached the values of life that she considered most vital. “Ah done lived Grandma’s way, now Ah means tuh live mine…she was burned in slavery time when folks, dat is Black folks, didn’t sit down anytime dry felt late it. So si Hin’ on porches lak de white madam looked lak uh mighty fine thing tuh her.” (TEWWG 109)

Janie for sure has some scars from her past experiences and usually people feel highly insecure because they were only bombarded by negative experiences that has been happening in their past regarding something about them. Fortunately for Janie meeting Tea Cake does help rectify the lack of emotional growth that she was suffering from or was forced to experience prior to his entering into her life. Tea Cake beautiful puts it across to Janie that God had designed it for her in such a manner. “God made it so you spend yo’ old age first wid somebody else, and saved up yo’ young girl days to spend wid me”. (TEWWG 101).
The kind of intimacy which she was craving from her adolescence she was able to get through her romance with Tea Cake only and with no one else. Tea Cake was the kind of spirited guy who allowed her to free her spirit and enabled her to find the much earned happiness in her deserved independence. It is Tea Cake who makes her life totally soul filling and she works along with in the fields’ not on compulsion but out of her own free will. Her one more fancy of making friends also fortifies in this period. In fact the beautiful love that the couple enjoys is so infectious that they attract company from all the beans-growing community who are enthralled by the couple. Yet again at the end of the story she finally finds inner peace all along the course achieving all the milestones that was earlier identified as integrity versus despair. Having gone through all these trials and tribulations in life she is not saddened or dishearten, she is soul satisfied and contended. “The kiss of his memory made pictures of love and light against the wall. Here was peace. She pulled in her horizon like a great fish-net. Pulled it from around the waist of the world and draped it over her shoulder. So much life in its meshes! She called in her soul to come and see.” (TEWWG 193)

She did not or was not able to exhibit normal patterns of development with certain standards as it was a kind of inability. It was Tea Cake who redeemed her from her life of sorrow, solitude and mental debauchery and allowed her to find contentment and happiness in her adult like. The oppressive relationship of Nanny, Logan and Joe were very much the opposite to Tea Cake who was showering the much needed love and respect to Janie. It was during
this time that she was able to heal and that was emulated at the end of the story with a sense of contentment and peace. The final aspect of the *Bildungsroman* is the “Realization of human potential as a goal of life”. As the novel begins with an image of the ships and seas, it is literally not found in the novel. The sea turns out to become an important simile for love towards the end of the novel. “Love is lak de sea. It’s uh movin’ thing, but still and all, it takes its shape from de shore it meets, and its different with every share.” (*TEWWG* 191).

The journey of Janie happens to be the point where the sea meets the distant shore a horizon, she has been longing and looking forward through her life. Hurston uses this imagery to draw the attention of the readers us she wants to authenticate to the readers that is the farthestmost spot. The Farthest horizon that a human eye could see and the line of demarcation where the land/water and the sky meets becomes an event or a phenomenon. It is in the peripheral stage that she has experienced the horizon, and not only fed and end it, it is that she is able to pull “in her horizon like a great fish-net, drape it over her shoulder, and apparently, live comfortably there – back in Eatonville, at home – with her soul.” (*TEWWG* 193). Janie had made her long and arduous trip to the realization of human potential as a goal of life. She tells her friend that she had attained enlightenment through her journey of life and it was possible only because she embarked on the journey. “You got tuh go there tuh know there.” (*TEWWG* 192)
This particular image of gazing down the road on a continuous search for the further horizon is prevalent and predominant throughout the novel. As a child little Janie always was on the lookout for “searched as much of the world as she could from the top of the front steps and then went down to the front gate and learned over to gaze up and down the road.” (TEWWG 11)

Gazing and trying to explore in his own little manner she was able to spot her first fancy and was quite happy with her new found toy of bliss or glory. Though the “Pollinated air” Johnny Taylor becomes a glorious being” (TEWWG 11). The glory and the thrills of it all fizzled out very fast as it had brimmed. Yet again, she is guided and holding the finger of Nanny is taken on a trip of life, which is jam packed with the thorny brutalities as a package. Yet again later in life the horizon this to surface where as she keeps moving along the burn to a “place in the yard where she could see the road.” (TEWWG 27)

It was when she was mentally trying to divert and gain mental solace watching the lacy patterns of oak leaves on the ground, out of the blues the whistle of Joe Starks comes as a harbinger of the phenomenal life that she was craving for. Before being embodied or represented he happens to be just a whistle a faint variation on a song, a possibility of a potential harmony. Just gazing into the horizon is an imaginative leap, hoping for better perspectives, looking forward to greener pastures. Gaping and gazing at the obvious path of journey before embarking on it is like the child and adult alike gaping at the clouds and oceans, speculating on what could be the destination and when and where the whole thing would lead them to. Janie happens to be a passive
observer and gazes over the horizon if all her “dreams mocked to death by time” *(TEWWG 1)*

The kiss at the adolescent stage from that of a “shiftless” boy of reality and the soothing whistle of Joe is too mild or inaudible to know that it might become the call or the summon of his master to the lesser fortunate mate. Here throughout the novel Horizons’ are an open invitation bidding one to actively go ahead and explore to succeed, not just succumb and passively receive. It is the positive attitudinal march with Janie’s which is quite deliberate and intentional. She sets out with enthusiasm and pride and an over flowing ambition to Eatonville and thence from there on to the Everglades in high hopes of gaining the much sought out wisdom which will aid her to possess and bring the much cherished horizon and to live blissfully within it.

Realization of the human potential as the goal of life, not only confirms to Janie, alone, but all her three husbands too. Because they too to a large extent and also help measure the degree of change that comes over Janie. It is crystal clear that only because of the contributions of these three men that facilitates Janie to develop into the appreciable and a full fledge woman that she finally emerges as at the close of the novel. At a point of time in life where Janie was not exposed to anything is not even having a boy let alone having an affair, just as curiosity had set in and she had only experienced an isolated and random first kiss. But as a benefaction she is gift wrapped and handed over to Logan kellicks, who is a short lived character in the novel, but turns out to be a ready-made source for Nanny to secure the life of her granddaughter, if not
acted on time might go wayward and mess up her life. Hence, she takes it upon herself and delivers Janie into the hands of “Brother Logan” who, according to her own parameters is a good man, though there is no explanation why a good man would be interested in marrying a very young girl fit enough to be his daughter. But the little girl did not see the good man but only “Some ole skull head in de grave yard, who has been “nangin round” (TEWWG 13). What Nanny did not expect her good man to do was to hit her granddaughter so early to be precise just not too soon. It was shattering for the Nanny to know or get to hear from the heartthrob of her life, her little girl telling her “He says he never mean to lay de weight oh his hand on me in malice” (TEWWG 22). It was a blatant attack on the illusion of the Nanny for whom the “good man” the Brother also of a sudden or so soon rather prematurely looms large to be a “grass gut, liver – lipped nigger” (TEWWG 22). The balloon busted she would even go to the paint off where she would gladly “take a strick and salivate “im” for beating her baby “already” (TEWWG 22).

The initial gloss of a marriage weans out very fast as the “old skull head” threatens to stop chopping wood and stopped talking in rhymes to her. He used to give her all that she needs like chopping woods, toting it inside the kitchen and filling all her kitchen buckets and so on. But all these favors’ are what he felt he should give her and not what she actually wanted. But the tragedy of it all lies in the fact that Logan wants Janie the way he wants her to be. But unfortunately Janie is despondent as she wants to want him too, but unfortunately she cannot force herself to want him. Right from his appearance
everything about him is wrong. She feels that his head is all but wrong, his belly just too big and as a slogger and a rugged man his face is always dirty which becomes more dirty for a woman to digest or accept with all its follies. 

Logan’s episode in her life starts and ends very fast that Long before the year was up… had stopped talking in rhymes to her” (TEWWG 26).

Logan, who was pictured as an erstwhile romantic poet who always spoke in rhymes which was for sure a clear positive endeavor. But after the estrangement, Janie stands her ground and he is immediately forced to back out. It is because he believes that she has become a spoilt brat only because of the pampering that was showered on her only by both her grandmother and he himself that led to her present attitude. And owing responsibility of himself, he holds back and kind of concluding that she is irreparable. But Janie here who tries to talk about equality and certain locus standi, for herself is not heard at all. Her husband demarcates the line between them and says if he does his share of bringing in firewood and filling water, she will have to complete her share of cooking which will be a major leverage that he was granting her. Logan always used to brag about how his first wife would contribute in finishing up the daily chores. In fact, he always credited her to be manlike or partner him like a man would be and it was very difficult for him to fathom her state.

He feels that whatever work that was done through the course of the day only his own work and that he could not see any contribution from her side. Logan was so much out of talking in verse or rhymes to her and goes on a spree
talking about how his first wife, of which Janie does not want to tag the line or take up the role of being manlike and partaking in all his daily chores. Except while he affectionately addresses her with a nickname Lilbit’ his talks with her is never ever solicitous. To any observer, whatever she speaks will sound like or will be bordering on goading and nagging her in some way or the other about responsibilities and chores of the household. She as an adorable and glorious little girl, before him she is not able to cut ice with him or drive home her ideas, and fantasies, to him even are bedded in the middle of the night too. Whenever she tries to talk to him about her state and about what and how she would like her life to be Logan without any hesitation or even a small amount of sympathy or mercy cuts short here conversations, shuts her down by blatantly reminding her of her status or locus stand.

Here again, there are two different characters, from two different generations, Nanny only wanted protection for Janie and that was thoroughly taken care of and well answered by Logan. As a token of appreciation or gratitude, he expects her to reciprocate. He expects her to be very affectionate towards him and shower him with all the love. But unfortunately she does not seem to even acknowledge his contribution, just as he had refused to acknowledge her. Not able to withstand the hardships any further she threatens to leave him and those are the only words that he isn't wanting to be a part of the conversation or he refused to enter into a discussion about their relationship. The refusal and the silence is itself a way of hurting her in retaliation of how she had hurt him. But he never misses a second without
pricking her by reminding her that all her hardships and her presumed bereavement according to her are the result or the fruit of ailing from her pitiful background. However, she may make a hue and cry about how her miserable and pathetic state has nothing to do with him.

The good man of Nanny who often spoke is rhymes becomes a demanding and nagging monster, who has turned into a stubborn and proud psychopath who would not lend a her to the poor helpless women who would want somebody to lend an ear to listen to her agonizing state on the scream of her heart. It is the same man who later turns out to speak blasphemous words and his language is as bad as Hurston was made to write. The harsh words turn out be the last straw in the life of Janie in her episode with Logan. He spits fine as he speaks and tries to reiterate that she has “no particular place, it’s wherever Ah need yuh” (TEWWG 31) Driving home the fact that she is highly insignificant and does not have any credibility in life as a wife or it alone as a woman in the society. He goes on to threaten to kill her to satiate his anger and get even with her unruly behavior of not being man like Ah’ll take holt oh dat ax and come in dere and kill yuh!” (TEWWG 31). “God damn yo’ hide!” (TEWWG 32). As Janie had given up all hopes of giving life or rejuvenating this rotten life a whistle coming down the road, awakens her dying spirit and gives her hope. The whistle does not tell too many fancies to her, but only the basic fact that he is not Logan Klicks. He is a fanciful man with “Citified” (TEWWG 27) manners and a neat dressing sense which she is not familiar with the rugged husband of hers. Looking at him and imaging herself back in the old
fort once her husband returns with the mule, she will only have to slog it out in
the fields plowing along to glory. Whereas the citified guy there addresses her
as “a lil girl – chile” who is “hardly old enough to be weaned” still should be
some kid who “craves sugar - tits” and for sure she is a “a pretty doll – baby”
(TEWWG 28). Who has to be pedastalised as a trophy and all around her has to
do her bid and call and pamper her beyond the limits as she duly deserved it.
Though he is not physically unattractive he does not pop up image of
“represent sun up and pollen and blooming trees” (TEWWG 29).

Her fascination for Jody is nothing but the seeking or the solace of a
tired swimmer finding a further horizon. A solace, a savior, a replete from her
drawing state which will redeem her towards bliss if not everlasting happiness.
Joe also is not young at his meeting Janie he is almost thirty to seventeen, much
older to her. He considers her as a valuable blessing on him who has been
gifted with a charming angel with whom he plans to set off on a journey to a
brand new town. Even as a new husband, Joe, is not the kind who will shower
her with sweet talk or rhyming speeches for he is not a romantic man, but a
through bread business man. “He is kind of portly, like rich white folks”
(TEWWG 34).

Eatonville does not slow down Joe during his setting period, in fact, he
assumes the Black community stereotypical characteristics of the white Boss
man. He is a bold, aspiring and well oriented gentleman who has no fear of
strange place, people and so on. The confidence that he was because of the fact
that he has enough of money on hand funds is handed to almost $ 300 with
which he planned to buy more space and land in order to make the town grow. A hardcore businessman, he is not waiting for a hand out, but at the same time he does not expect something for nothing. Among alien people and surroundings, he had managed to negotiate and also went on to pay cash for the land of unspecified white men. He then goes on to learn the towns needs well and finally decides on building a store which will be the heart of the town. It is Joe Starks who takes over total command in deciding and also in designation of the order needed to develop the town which was only dormant and trying to crawl through the toddler period.

With the typical image of an aristocrat, a cigar between his teeth, he goes on to paint the town and steer it in the direction of positive growth, she expects it to grow. Slowly but very steadily he drives home the fact that he is the God of the town which he keeps reiterating through repeated expletive sentence starter, “I god”, and as time goes on he creates a paradise for himself, his wife and all those who wish to join him. He chalks out the path to glory along with growth for town. First, he builds the store, then goes on to build a post office and then coordinates a committee, which able in cutting out a road to enable transport inside and outside the town. As he progresses, he is elected Mayor of the town. The Mayor on taking up office first dispels darkness by bringing the first street lamps. Bringing light into darkness he builds his palace which is huge and “gloaty sparkly white” (TEWWG 47)
The megalomaniac in him is so much surfacing that the size of the house was deliberately intended so as to make all the rest of the house look like servant quarters. Joe able as he was wants to celebrate and give back to the town pittance of what he had got from it. Hence he does it in an elegant manner where he humors the workers to celebrate along with him as a reciprocation for the place he has created for them. The stone is inaugurated with a grand opening as Janie serves lemonade and he breaks the soda crackers and cheese. The growth of this man is partly much fast and Herculean because of his master mind. The party is free of cost and also initiate a barbecue to enthral the towns’ people. He moves among the towns people celebrating and communicating with the process, developing his business which is an ulterior motive as a business tycoon. He does everything within and beyond bounds to make Janie not just comfortable, but then just live in luxury.

He is multifaceted and multifunctionary as he the Mayor, the postmaster, the landlord and the shopkeeper of the town. In reality he is the quintessential marketer and the master force behind the town’s drive towards adolescence. The attitude of the townspeople is ambiguous as expected, they either are admiring him or envying them. Though the people at the town express their disgruntlement, Joe chooses not to notice as he is too busy on the growth and progress of his projects. He bows down to no one else except for the white man whom he sees as the authority and models of higher commands in position. And also with men he is doing business within Maitland. Janie’s home if he would allow to call it, is a far-fetched idea, but it is a two storied
building with porches outside and banisters inside, fit enough to irk other residents.

The towns’ people’s resentment grows day by day as they have to witness a few scenes and are spectators of certain accessories’ which are used to make the life of this couple Cozier and Lazier. They have the much despised swivel chair in which he sits bewitchingly and does business at his store. To eliminate the possibility of walking and exhausting himself, he uses a gold pointed spittoon and to accompany that and provide equal luxury to the lady of the house a flower decked spittoon for him these two are the major instigating factor which stimulates and inflames the resentment of the towns’ people. Jody is the totalitarian who only wants to show off himself banner sized before the peasants of the town.

He is so endowed enough to make them look like foods as he is a whirlwind among the breezes. The growth of Jody is rapid and multifold that he emerges as a Hercules as they see him as “a man dat changes everything, but nothin’ don’t change him.” (TEWWG 49). He goes on to express to the townspeople about his big ideas and how his plans to work towards a “big voice” which would be heard loud and clean to set the town rolling towards progress and ultimate growth. But unfortunately his voice was so loud and audible that it impaired his own hearing and seeing, the negative aspect of it all.
Jody was never the extrovert, the kind who would be a part of the towns’ people who would partake in their day to day conversation, he always maintained his stature and sat on a high pedestal. But time changes, after he goes and purchases a mule to aid in the day to day work. It was this act which threw light on him as a compatible person and Janie praises him for his deed though it is the last time she does it. He starts mingling with the towns people and they too are kind of energized by their new mask of respect for him. He gets down from his pedestal and starts being one among the towns’ people in the story shining that fills his porch. But unfortunately his growing more and more close to the townspeople only estranges his relationship with that of his wife. But Jody becomes more despotic as his wife continues to assert her position in life. Janie no more appears to be attractive to Jody as she once used to be. She is now only a brainless moron who is incapable of the simplest acts of commerce.

Jody turns out to be more boisterous when one of her meals turns out to be a disaster. He is so different that from the individual who was very successful and respected in society and had turned into an insulting, sometimes violent, negative woman talks of his own porch whereby he has become a stranger to his once most admirable wife. As the years roll by both Jody and Eatonville appear to have weathered its adolescence and was stagnant in its middle ages. The town no longer offers any challenges to Joes as she is no longer young and struggling, he has to just settle down to managing the store. Janie’s is not in a position to earn any peace do he settles in the store. Whereas
the silence in between them is bursting out by the insults springing from his frustration that she does not do well in the store. He does not only implore her and chide her for then irresponsible acts.

He goes on to insult her on her physical appearance. Don’t stand dere rolling’ yo’ pop eyes at me wid yo’ rump hangin’ nearly to yo’ knees” (TEWWG 78). But Janie does not take it lightly and retorts to him taking in the middle of the floor. ‘Talkin’ ‘bout me lookin’ old! When you pull down yo’ britches, you look lak de change uh life. (TEWWG 79). As the exchange happens to be public and Jody as an individual socked and blushing in the respect showered on him by the people of the town not able to take the possible humiliation in front of other men. In spite of the worst kind of Pyrrhic victory of Janie, Joe’s helpless state where he was wordless erupts into a physical blow “so he struck Janie with all his might and drove her from the store” (TEWWG 80). As days pass by the people of the town think that they have patched up, the state which will never ever happen in reality because of the animosity that has grown out of bounds to between them. Jody begins to develop his own circle those that were earlier not allowed on his porch were now invited into his inner circle.

A man who always revered and paid heed to the white man and his way of functioning, digressed and took to the ways of trusting a root doctor. In spite of her hurt state Janie tries to warn him, but he chooses to abandon credible concepts and closes her off permanently ignoring her last words. Right from the first to the last depiction of Joe Starks he seems to move ever forward, yet
again ever downward. Joe Starks a sympathetic and positive man loses his humanity the clear and authentic “big voice” swallows up the much expected hyped up groom of Janie. He transforms from the position of “I God” to the devil incarnate.

Unfortunately, both her husband’s threaten to kill her. ‘Shut up! Ah wish thunder and lightnin’ would kill yuh! (TEWWG 86). But unfortunately for Jody it was his own fate, when “the square toed one” (TEWWG 86). Cut off his breath his hands were lift “in a pose of agonizing protest” (TEWWG 87). In Janie’s ongoing words of disappointment where she was utterly disappointed with her relationship. Jody turned out to be the right opposite of the white man she presumed him to be and forsook his wife for the complete acceptance within the Black male community, shows a larger and deeper frustration about how his own life and his dreams disappointed him.

The solace from the life which she Nanny thought would be good for her finally ended and she heaved a sigh of relief. She settles down to the reality of life and after sending away Joe Sparks with due respects and properly bemoaning his death, that the townspeople are satisfied with her, but the true love of her life the ultimate gentleman who was supposed to have been her idealistic here comes later in life as she is comfortably slotted in her home as the widow of the Mayor. This guy is Tea Cake who is neither crude like Logan nor too materialistic or megalomaniac like Joe Sparks. As they get to know each other they make small talks before they do business. They in fact compete in a game where he teacher her checkers before he got to know her name. Tea
Cake is so refined an individual that he compliments her on her looks. An aspects that satiate the ego in the woman who was craving for recognition and appreciation apart from the fact that she was eulogized for her beautiful features. “Folks in playin’ will sense and folks is playin’ it without. But you got good meat on yo’ head. You’ll learn”. (TEWWG. 96)

For the kind of dredged life that she was leading she feels like a bird being freed after years of captivity, for what was believed as the normal flow of events he reverse it immediately after he sees her. This makes him back the relationship by assuming a depth of connections that she can feel the reverberation between them. This develops a kind of cross proximity that looks like she has known him from long last time. “Tea Cake wasn’t strange. Seemed as if she had known him all her life”. (TEWWG 99).

Tea Cake is not just another husband of Janie his very presence very rapidly develops into his being the antithesis of both Logan and Joe. The first two husbands being older than Janie only showed their authority over her, but Tea Cake being younger she proves otherwise. He goes on to help her think for herself, where as her old husbands thought for her. The old husbands only thought of her as a thing of beauty and praised and eulogized her for it, but Tea Cake adored and praised her brains and companionship. In spite of her beauty they kept on manipulating how she could work for them and contribute abundantly, but Tea Cake kindles the child in her and does not expect her to serve him, but only to play with him. Logan and Joe Sparks were enchanted with how their lifestyle was enhanced because they had a charming damsel in
their lives as a partner. But on the contrary Tea Cake seeks and finds how he
can enhance and aggrandize her to the best of his capacity. He constantly keeps
evolving till his death as he keeps emerging and yet again transforming to
appreciable heights that after his death he is as powerful and omnipresent even
after. Being an antithesis alone does not make him a complicated developing
character. Just the fact that he is not either Logan Killicks or not Joe Sparks is
rapidly diminished for more intriguing depiction of a man of surprises, the
maturation of young man.

Tea Cake before he marries Janie displays to the town and Janie what a
gentleman he is, presumably putting his best foot forward. Tea Cake
beautifully depicts how he has learnt to share and what to expect in a
relationship with a woman. He does not go out and tell her about his dream, but
he offers her dream. An option is given to Janie to choose between a passenger
train and that of a battleship. Tea Cake does not command or order things to be
done, but takes up a team approach, which was what the protagonist had been
craving all her life. As chores are equally divided both of them are equally
profited from the results. He draws at lot of satisfaction through the gestures of
kindness from him to her. He is twelve years younger to her and during the
courtship period every penny earned is money spent on her.

According to him he has to earn and earn only to see to it that Janie lives
in comfort and luxury. He adores her beyond expectations and the defense in
their age is a concern for Janie, whereas Tea Cake is indifferent to the concept.
When Janie comes to know Tea Cake he is has no savings, no dream to pursue
and above all no life plan at all. But when Janie comes into his life he gathers momentum and moves to another town to start afresh over their marriage. But as the newness of the marriage weans and is convinced of Janie’s commitment towards him, his assertiveness emerges. Earlier he used to place her welfare above his own, attaching his desires to her, but as time goes by the tables change and his happiness becomes her own his focus is first on himself about who he was with, what he did, when he went and so on. It is after that he responds to the insecurities of Janie about her position in his life and fear in her of being replaced by another younger woman in life. Tea Cake is very successful in reassuring her, but with his level of maturity and willingness to accept the responsibilities of a man who is married beyond her assumptions. Though he refines after blowing up Janie’s hidden money and later when confronted realizes his mistake and as a reformed man wants to move over to the Muck of the Everglades.

In expectedly down in the Muck, he is the leader. As he has been there earlier, he knows the ropes, who knows how and where to get hired, by the best boss and also by securing convenient housing and also not only working for a livelihood but in the process to laugh and play too. Tea Cake teaches Janie everything, including shooting with a gun. He does not mind working hard only because he is able to balance both a he is equally playing hard as well. Janie is his twenty four hours partner as he slogs in the day in the fields wither and luxuriate in the rest of the day. Tea Cake is still a boy at heart, but his story on the Muck is also one that of jealousy. As he worries about the ability of others
to lead his wife astray, in particular Mrs. Turner, the color struck woman, the owner of one of the eating establishments. To showcase his authority and put forward clearly to the people of the Muck on who the boss is, he hits Janie. He goes on to arrange a scene of chaos in a dinner arranged by Mrs. Turner. An act which serves multiple purposes and scares Mrs. Turner right out of the Muck. It is also a high level prank where he and his friends get to release their pent up energy and laugh about it later. It is only when the hurricane comes he displays any change in his maturation process. His cool and confident attitude lands him in the delay in departing from the Muck. He does not pay heed to any of the messages from those of the animals, the native Indians, the friends who threw direct invitations for a ride out. The immature nature in him, lead him to delay journeys from the Muck. It was purely luck that took them across the journey. The best in the individual is brought out during the hurricane. When a rabid dog attack Janie. “Tea Cake split the water like an otter, opening his knife as he dived”. (*TEWWG* 166)

He attacks and kills it without being bothered about his own life, for he would do anything for Janie. But as the rabid dog was killed Tea Cake was mortally wounded as a result of which he loses his mind. The after effects are even more gruesome as in a mad fit of rage he aims a pistol at his wife Janie and shoots, but she misses the shot and in order to save her own life, she uses her own rifle and kills him. Till the very end he managed to live his whole life in a lighter vein with laughter and frolic. It was not until a hurricane came his way and unmitigated fear that Janie may be harmed in order to prop him
forward without the too much of insight based on the pure rise of adrenaline. But he does not live long enough to worry about the future. He lived his whole life in the present, but the irony of it all he finds love, the kind of love which was great enough he would die for.

As Janie the protagonist grows and evolves in the novel, it also encompasses the growth of her two husbands who also evolved from nothing to something in life based on only their own potential cubed with charisma and love of the protagonist. Her three husbands happen in successive order not overlapping one following the other. As growth occurs inside the framing chapters that begin and end the novel. Her love life begins with love for someone else and love for herself. As Janie Crawford her love begins with her awareness herself being a bee who is not the honey sucking one, but dust bearing one who is being sucked into the sanctum of a bloom along with “thousand sister – calyaxes arch to meet the love embrace and the ecstatic shiver of the tree from root to tiniest branch creaming in every blossom and frothing with delight” (TEWWG 11).

Janie knows this is not her idea of love, but is enthralled by “the golden dust of pollen” that “beglamored his rags and her eyes” (TEWWG 12). But is brutally killed when Nanny calls timely call sends the kids to the “manure Pile” First stage of adolescence where she is not allowed to make her own decision, she is hand held and made to walk into the glorious marriage, where she blindly walks in. but assumes that when she is safe inside the confines of the house she can “wait for love to begin” (TEWWG 22). And she learns that the
very incitation of marriage alone does not make love blossom the marriage does not spring love makes her a woman, where she realizes that she has the right to expect help and his partnership in the marriage. She is willing to give her share for his contribution, but he blissfully discount her share. She resents his attitude and her life with him is contained within his sixty acres, and all the work she doesn't afford her the opportunity to envision a world beyond those confines. Janie moves on to the road for some hope to appear and as destiny would have it the possibility of love does approach where she could be a central aspect in a town being established. The new love for only offers her a chance to live in a new place, but also given the opportunity to share his dream.

Her phase in life as Janie Starks is pretty much enthralling and she is proud of what she sees, or she is adorably pampered. A life that Nanny envisaged for her as Joe was a chip of the white folks that they looked up to. Though Janie is mistaken to be his daughter, they set wings right and start sailing forth. This is only or a beginning as Janie keeps obscuring, he is a man all by himself who never asks for her opinion, but only informs and instructs. Not only that, as he is quick in his profits, it only aids on his ego building. As he becomes the mayor, she loses her name as she is addressed as Mrs. Mayor Starks, and when she is invited to talk, she loses her voice. Slowly he goes on to scramble the little dreams she had and berates her in public.
Joe’s harangue is always directed at her, but includes all women comparing them on placing them on the same platform like children, cows and chickens. He strongly believes that do not have the capacity to think for themselves. This very aspect crumbles the womanhood and her small little ego to a great extent. Unable to take the battering for land, she tries to defend herself to a certain extent and womanhood to a large extent, to no access or mission to be completed since he blatantly puts it across that women think that they are thinking. This is the instant of his epiphany, she realizes that no amount of words in the world will change his view of opinion about a woman, hence she dismantles the process of influencing his views on woman. The split in Janie’s psyche the separation of her inside from that of her outside self is just round the corner. Hence Janie handles the way she handles Logan. But the same thing on a figurative level than what she did on a literal level earlier to Logan. With her first husband, she went into the house and was awaiting for love to blossom in her life. But with her second husband, she has mastered the art of going into herself. Seven long years she chooses to leave Logan and follow Joe like a faithful dog just because of the promising delusion of the “for horizon” crystal clearly she held out high hopes that she could find her idea of love in unison with Joe somewhere is those horizons. But all when dies and Janie is no more receptive and hopeful of reblooming of the love “she wasn’t petal – open anymore with him” (TEWWG 71). And she was so certain of her feelings and actions. “Packed up and put away in parts of her heart”. (TEWWG 72).
And she clearly comes to a conclusion that another man is bound to happen in her life in the future and she opts to save up for him. It is when she is slapped for cooking a disastrous meal she clearly sees her situation. The analyses her relationship, a wait for fine weather when her inside heals and when she can merge out once again with the outside self. Having come in time with her two separate salves, she begins is slowly and meticulously assert herself. She starts to live beyond his hurting her physically and emotionally. Though literally, she lives inside the store, she exists figuratively outside along with nature. What is truly real is only her inside self, and ultimately she finds her greatest happiness when she is able to take the inside happiness and place it before her eyes. This is when she is ready to experience either horizons or the bees at their blossoms. She endures as time passes by. The end is drawing closer and closer is more significant when she and Joe attacks each other’s bodies with words. And through her experience over the times she demonstrates a maturity. She knows that at last she has to watch out for herself, herself alone because that alone, is the reason to show the world how worthy she is. Finally, when her husband is dead, she had to starch and iron her face to cater to the needs of the people of the town as a widow was supposed to behave. The indifferences she had developed towards Joe is not reflected in her outside facial expression. She immaculately behaves the way she is expected at the funeral and the church.
Finally Janie Starks, widow emerges showing ultimate maturity all these years. She learns to move through her lonesomeness to a state of freedom Janie ruminates about the part, but she is not a woman who lives backwards, hence starts reveling in the new attention that men pay her at the same time being careful not to be sucked into fast sweet talk. Having heard and witnessed a lot of courting dramas and her two marriages being a double disappointment to her. Lonesomeness as time passes by very rapidly becomes aloneness, which only means freedom. Janie grew into herself only enough to demonstrate to the town that mourning for Jody did not need to last much longer that of her grief, and she was not able to grieve for what she did not love.

It was when she was in complete harmony with herself that Tea Cake walks into the store and most royally in her world. Right from their first meeting, she feels that she has known him forever. Unlike the speed is which Logan was thrust on her and secondly, how she thrust herself into the waiting carriage to Joe. But neither does she hurry Tea Cake nor does he hurry her. She warily enters into a relationship with Tea Cake but is reality easily and eagerly spends the time with him and cherishes something that she was never enjoyed with her previous husband who were elder to her is laughter. She is bestowed with the wonder gift of laughter and a companionship that from the heart of its genesis is balanced, competitive yet very friendly and for the first time ever in her life she falls in love from his being only ephemeral to that of a corporeal reality. She has always been waiting for the bee her blossom and it was a lifetime of waiting.
Janie’s third and final marriage gives her the identity of Janie woods and something that was slow and steady into a healthy relationship. Tea Cake offers the Muck to her, a place where “Folks don’t do nothing’ down there, but make money and fun and foolishness.” (TEWWG 128). For which she willingly agrees and she is so much as the love that the healing process is fully underway, facilitating her soul to crawl out from its hiding place.

Whenever it is warranted, she knows to take command of the situation, or study the situation well and stay a silent spectator. Janie indeed does not challenge a Tea Cake’s decision to stay back the Muck when the rest of the Indians and the animals started leaving for higher ground, and the laughter and stores continue as usual and they are surrounded with likeminded friends. But not far from the laughter and frolic there comes a time where she realize something more powerful is going on. It’s she who silences the gathering, she who is the superior force. The others fall in like and they all collectively start questioning God.

Janie is satiated with the love and affection of Tea Cake and feels that he is “a glance from God” (TEWWG 106 and he is the light at daybreak. As she rivaled about him being a gift from God, they both join together and seek his attentions. But at the end of the natural calamity as destiny would have it, she had to pull the trigger and end the life of the man who loved her dearly and gave her a new lease of life literally and figuratively, the sorrow and her act “the meanest moment of eternity” (TEWWG 184).
But when she killed him she knew that the person she loved had already died. The funeral service, second time for husband was not like the one she did for Joe sparks, but was the grand parade that she could provide. The Jury just takes five minutes to arrive at a decision that Tea Cake’s death was only accidental. Only finally as Janie Woods Widow does she realize who she is, a realization of the identity, and a realization of the self. Having married thrice and become a widow twice with and without love, with and without grief, she has finally realized who and what she is.

Of course life without Tea Cake in the Muck is very painful. A widow again, she has to make a decision as early, on where she has to go. Earlier, she chose to stay at Eatonville all through the morning and finally arrive at freedom. She chooses Eatonville again, but this time will work through the grief and like in freedom which she never lost when she married Tea Cake. She marches back to her house in Eatonville much more boldly and confidently as she is an integrated whole. She has met herself in Muck, for whom she was in search all her life. Sure, that Tea Cake will be with her all along she boldly marches forward and climbs the steps back in her house in Eatonville.

The horizon that she has been looking and seeking to touch kept on moving away, now is come forward and gathered all around her. She no longer has two individuals of herself as inside and outside selves. She has finally felt her soul crawl out of its hiding place, the very moment she trusted Tea Cake and accepted to go with him into the Muck. She was soul satisfied as she did not need any more to be separated from herself, somewhere in the further horizon where her identity and self were dwelling has rejoined her at the end. She is complete with everything she needs and in peace with herself.