Their Eyes Were Watching God:
Choice Assignment Learning Contract

This Contract belongs to: ____________________

Choose an activity from each shape group. Cut out your three choices and paste them below. You are responsible for finishing these activities by ____________________.

Student Signature:______________________________ Teacher Signature:______________________________
“Honey, de white man is de ruler of everything as fur as Ah been able tuh find out. Maybe it’s some place way off in de ocean where de black man is in power, but we don’t know nothin’ but what we see. So de white man throw down de load and tell de nigger man tuh pick it up. He pick it up because he have to, but he don’t tote it. He hand it to his womenfolks. De nigger woman is de mule uh de world so fur as Ah can see. Ah been prayin’ fur it tuh be different wid you. Lawd, Lawd, Lawd!”
~Nanny to Janie chapter 2
Option 1:
Write a short essay explaining how the pear tree is used as a symbol in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Give examples from the book to support your explanation.

Option 2:
Compose a ballad expressing Janie’s view of what pear trees represent in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Option 3:
Create a pamphlet advertising the pear tree. Describe the attributes of the pear tree by its symbol in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

“She was stretched on her back beneath the pear tree soaking in the alto chant of the visiting bees, the gold of the sun and the panting breath of the breeze when the inaudible voice of it all came to her. She saw a dust-bearing bee sink into the sanctum of a bloom; the thousand sister-calyxes 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. So this was marriage! She had been summoned to behold a revelation. Then Janie felt a pain remorseless sweet that left her limp and languid.”

~Chapter 2
Option 1:
Write a short essay explaining how the hurricane is used as a symbol in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Give examples from the book to support your explanation.

Option 2:
Write a recipe for a hurricane so that each aspect of the symbol of a hurricane as found in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is present in the recipe.

Option 3:
Create a children’s book with an antagonist of a hurricane representing the same symbol as in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

“The wind came back with triple fury, and put out the light for the last time. They sat in company with others in other shanties, their eyes straining against crude walls and their souls asking if He meant to measure their puny might against His. They seemed to be staring at the dark, but their eyes were watching God.”
~Chapter 18