

## Worksheet 4. Hurston's Writing Techniques in "Spunk"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Zora Neale Hurston's first short story, "Spunk" (<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5131/>), already had many of the characteristics that would later define her style of writing: the use of folk language; folk groups; folklore; and figurative language. For this assessment, students will be writing an essay analyzing the techniques she uses in the story. Have students individually complete these questions to organize the evidence to be cited in their essay:

How does Hurston give the reader a sense of the community in which the story takes place?

Describe how Hurston delineates the character traits of each main character in the story. (Cite examples of folk group; folk speech; figurative language; symbolism; and other literary devices)

What is the atmosphere (mood) of the story?

Cite examples from the text where Hurston establishes this atmosphere or mood.