1. The quote “I remember the very day that I became colored” refers to the moment she realized her ethnicity. Before, she was surrounded by people who never made her feel different from the rest and was “everybody’s Zora.” Even when the white people passed her town, the author would sing and dance for them, mainly because she wanted to and was given coins for. It wasn’t until she had to go to Jacksonville for school. She states she “found it out in certain ways” which I would assume was the apparent racism on her travel to Jacksonville.

2. In this essay, the author first describes her view of herself at a younger age, one who did not care about race and society’s perception of her, and briefly describes the day she had realized her ethnicity and where she stands in society. What was very inspirational about this essay was her communication of her self pride. Overall, this essay communicates to the audience the following: to not let your confidence dwindle by exterior factors. It was more apparent in the line, “no I do not weep at the world-I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife.” Therefore, it was an implicit thesis.

3. I could not agree more with the essay’s thesis because I am a strong believer of self-confidence. I try to push everyone I meet to forget about blame and obstacles to allow ourselves to concentrate more on our own goals and accomplishments. When talking with friends and random strangers, I noticed the amount of stress “society” has on them. This can range from our family member’s expectations to the awareness of LGBTQ society. We tend to blame said society for creating “standards” but going down to the origin of such issue, it’s the people of that build up such society that causes the problem initially. With self confidence/pride, we can learn to ignore these issues and focus on the improvement of ourselves. Racism, expectations, and societal norms no longer become relevant and I myself have learned to equally treat others the way I want to be treated. With that being said, Hurston’s essay pretty much says the same thing: to not let your race define who you are.

4. This simile is one of my favorites. “Like a brown bag of miscellany” ,which she uses to describe herself, continues to be filled with “jumble of small things priceless and worthless.” Not only that, she is “against a wall in company with other bas, white, red, and yellow” which shows there are many unique people who are all around her, each filled with different items. These items are also metaphors of what current state is like, such as “a nail bent under the weight of things too heavy for any nail” and “a dried flower or two still a little fragrant.” Depressing as it is, it all comes down to the world viewing the population in a very bland perspective. They do not care of what is inside each bag (people) and simple judge the bags by it’s cover.