



12th Grade Summer Reading 2025-2026

Directions: Please read [“Sweat”](#) by Zora Neale Hurston. After reading the short story, complete question #1, #2, and #3. Make sure to answer each question fully, using textual evidence to support your ideas (at least 5-7 sentences per question). Then read the additional related texts linked below and answer the questions that follow. Using Times New Roman (12 point double-spaced) font, save all of your responses as a Google Doc and be ready to share and discuss during the first week of school.

Feel free to email Mrs. Caro at meredith.caro@palmbeachschools.org if you have any questions.

Question 1: Identify a theme addressed in the story and explain the significance of the theme throughout the story. Please make sure to answer the question fully and use textual evidence to support your thinking.

Question 2: What is the role of the main character and how does the main character contribute to the theme you identified in question one? Please make sure to answer the question fully and use textual evidence to support your thinking.

Question 3: What unique language features (figurative language, word choice, tone etc.) does the author use? Explain how these language features contribute to the text.

Now that you have read **“Sweat,”** please read the next two attachments and complete the comparison questions that follow.

[“Verses Written by a Young Lady, on Women Born to Be Controll'd!”](#) - Compare the themes of the short story and the poem. If Delia from “Sweat” were to read this poem, how might she respond to the sentiment expressed in the last stanza of the poem?

"The Harlem Renaissance" - How does Hurston's writing reflect on the African American experience? How does her writing reflect social dynamics within the African American community?