

## **Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)**

1891: Born in Alabama to John (carpenter and Baptist preacher) and Lucy (former schoolteacher)

1920: Receives associate degree from Howard University

1925-7: Studies anthropology at Barnard College with the “father of American anthropology,” Franz Boas

1926:

- Starts field work for Boas in Harlem
- Produces the literary magazine *Fire!* with author Langston Hughes and others, but they publish only one issue

1927:

- Collects folklore in Florida
- Marries Herbert Sheen
- Publishes article on St. Augustine, Florida in the *Journal of Negro History*

1928: Receives bachelor of arts degree from Barnard College

1930-1: Collaborates on the play *Mule Bone* with Langston Hughes, but they part ways over a dispute about authorship

1931:

- Publishes “Hoodoo in America” in the *Journal of American Folklore*
- Divorces Herbert Sheen

1934: Publishes the novel *Jonah's Gourd Vine*

1935: Receives a fellowship for a PhD in anthropology at Columbia University, but seldom comes to class; does not continue in the program

1936: Receives Guggenheim Fellowship to study Obeah (folk magic and religion) in the West Indies, goes to Jamaica

1937:

- Goes to Haiti
- Writes and publishes *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

1939:

- Receives honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Morgan State College
- Marries Albert Price III
- Becomes drama instructor at North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University) in Durham, and meets playwright Paul Green, a professor of drama at the University of the North Carolina

1940:

- Files for divorce from Albert Price
- Collects folklore in South Carolina

1943:

- Honored by Howard University as one of their Distinguished Alumni
- Granted divorce from Albert Price

1947-8: Performs research in British Honduras

1950: Works as a maid

1956-7: Works as a librarian

1958: Works as a substitute teacher

1959: Suffers a stroke, reluctantly enters welfare home

1960: Dies, buried in unmarked grave

1973: Author Alice Walker finds and marks Hurston's grave

1975: Walker renews public interest in Hurston with an article in *Ms.*

## Works Consulted

[Gates, Henry Louis.] "Chronology." *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Zora Neale Hurston. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2013. 211-219.