

Visions & Voices: Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

 Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=306311> |  Print Guide |  Email Alerts

[Home](#) | [Books by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Books About Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Other Writings by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Zora Neale Hurston Papers](#) | [WEBSITES](#)
[Home](#) |  Comments(0) |  Print Page

 Search:
Research Guide for Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

This research guide is to support the Vision and Voices event "Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words." More information about this event is available [here](#).

Comments (0)

Life and View of the Jazz-Age World of Zora Neale Hurston to be Celebrated at USC

On Saturday, March 3, 2012, Zora Neale Hurston, renowned twentieth-century African-American author, will be portrayed by Vanessa Bell-Calloway in a multi-media production to be presented in [Bovard Auditorium](#) on USC's [University Park Campus](#) (UPC). The show will include live music composed by [Ron McCurdy](#), professor of Jazz Studies, and performed by students from the USC [Thornton School of Music](#).

Comments (0)

Biography of Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Neale Hurston, novelist, playwright, poet, and anthropologist, was born on January 7, 1891, in Notasulga, Alabama, the fifth of eight children. Her parents were John Hurston, a carpenter and Baptist minister, and Lucy Ann Hurston, a schoolteacher. At the age of three, the Hurston family moved to [Eatonville](#), Florida, an all-African American community located north of Orlando. In 1904, Hurston's mother passed away, and her father subsequently remarried. For the next several years, due to problems with her father and his new wife, Zora led an itinerant life, moving from relative to relative, and then working as a domestic, and next as a wardrobe girl with a Gilbert and Sullivan repertory company. Because of the family issues, Zora had little educational opportunities until she enrolled in Morgan Academy (now Morgan State University) in Baltimore, MD. She followed that in 1918 by enrolling at Howard University in Washington, DC, attending the college preparatory program until 1919 and taking university courses off-and-on until 1924.

By January 1925, Hurston lived in New York City, where she began her literary career. This was the time of the [Harlem Renaissance](#), when black artists began to "explore black culture and express pride in their race." In addition, she combined her studies in anthropology with her writing career. She transferred to Barnard College in New York City, where she was offered a scholarship in anthropology and subsequently earned her B.A. in 1928.

While at Barnard College, Zora came to the attention of and received tutelage from the renowned anthropologist Franz Boas, who was teaching at Columbia University. She conducted field research (1927-1932) in the American South thanks to a fellowship from the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, collecting folklore and interviewing a former slave. As result of this work, she published an article "Cudjo's Own Story of the Last African Slaves" (1927). Unfortunately, in the early 1970's, this article proved to be plagiarized from a previous work by another author.

Hurston received additional fellowships, including a Rosenwald Fellowship in 1934 and a Guggenheim Fellowship for the period 1935-1936 that resulted in what some say was "her most fruitful anthropological field research which produced her finest literature." In 1934, she published her first novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine: A Novel*, followed in 1935 by *Mules and Men*. From 1936-1938, Hurston studied in Jamaica and Haiti on another Guggenheim Fellowship. This activity resulted in the book *Tell My Horse*, which came out in 1938.

Hurston wrote several other books, including the novels *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), *Moses, Man of the Mountain* (1939), and *Seraph on the Suwanee*, and her autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942).

In addition to writing novels, articles, and her autobiography, Hurston also wrote musical revues, created a concert program of African-American art with Rollins College in Winter Park, FL., worked with the WPA Federal Theater Project, and taught drama at the North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham, N.C., now North Carolina Central University, and taught part-time at Florida Normal in San Augustine, FL., later becoming Florida Memorial University, worked as a maid, then as a librarian at Patrick Air Force Base, took a job as a

Subject Guide


Michael Hooks

Contact Info

Department of Special Collections
 Doheny Memorial Library, Room B-25
 213-740-8180
[Send Email](#)

Links:
[Profile & Guides](#)
Subjects:
[Archives](#), [Regional History](#), [Political History](#)

reporter for the *Fort Pierce Chronicle*, and was a substitute teacher at Lincoln Park Academy, the black public school in Fort Pierce.

Poor health plagued Zora the last months of her life. She suffered a stroke in late October 1959, and then died of hypertensive heart disease on January 28, 1960, while living in the Saint Lucie County Welfare Home.

For more on the life and career of Zora Neale Hurston, see the Websites tab.

Comments (0)

Powered by [Springshare](#); All rights reserved. [Report a tech support issue](#).
View this page in a format suitable for [printers and screen-readers](#) or [mobile devices](#).

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide

Visions & Voices: Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=306311> | [Print Guide](#) | [Email Alerts](#)

- Home
- Books by Zora Neale Hurston**
- Books About Zora Neale Hurston
- Other Writings by Zora Neale Hurston
- Zora Neale Hurston Papers
- WEBSITES

Books by Zora Neale Hurston [Comments\(0\)](#) [Print Page](#) Search:

Books Available in USC Libraries

Ms. Hurston wrote the following books:

Jonah's Gourd Vine: A Novel (1934)*

Mules and Men (1935, 1936)*

Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937, 1938)*

Tell My Horse (1938)

Voodoo Gods: An Inquiry into Native Myths and Magic in Jamaica and Haiti (1939)

Moses, Man of the Mountain (1939)*

Dust Tracks on a Road (1942)*

Seraph on the Suwanee (1948)*

I Love Myself When I Am Laughing . . . and Then Again When I Am Looking Mean and Impressive: A Zora Neale Hurston Reader (edited, 1979)*

The Sanctified Church (1981)

Mule Bone: A Comedy of Negro Life, with Langston Hughes (edited, 1991)*

*These books can be found in the USC Libraries.

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Subject Guide



Michael Hooks

Contact Info

Department of Special Collections
Doheny Memorial Library, Room B-25
213-740-8180
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

[Archives](#), [Regional History](#), [Political History](#)

Powered by [Springshare](#); All rights reserved. [Report a tech support issue](#).
View this page in a format suitable for [printers and screen-readers](#) or [mobile devices](#).

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide

Visions & Voices: Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=306311> | [Print Guide](#) | [Email Alerts](#)

[Home](#) | [Books by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Books About Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Other Writings by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Zora Neale Hurston Papers](#) | [WEBSITES](#)

Books About Zora Neale Hurston | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [Print Page](#) | Search: | |

Books Available in USC Libraries

Books available in the [USC Libraries](#):

- Awkward, Michael, ed., *New Eyes on Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1990)
- Bloom, Harold, ed., *Zora Neale Hurston* (1986)
- Cronin, Gloria L., *Critical Essays on Zora Neale Hurston* (1998)
- Davis, Rose Parkman, *Zora Neale Hurston: An Annotated Bibliography and Reference Guide* (1997)
- Gates, Henry Louis, Jr., and K.A. Appiah, eds., *Zora Neale Hurston: Critical Perspectives Past and Present* (1993)
- Glassman, Steve, and Kathryn Lee Seidel, eds., *Zora in Florida* (1991)
- Harris, Trudier, *The Power of the Porch: The Storyteller's Craft in Zora Neale Hurston, Gloria Naylor, and Randal Kenan* (1996)
- Holloway, Karla F.C., *The Character of the Word: The Texts of Zora Neale Hurston* (1987)
- Lowe, John, *Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston's Cosmic Comedy* (1994)
- Peters, Pearl Mae Fisher, *The Assertive Woman in Zora Neale Hurston's Fiction, Folklore, and Drama* (1997)
- Plant, Deborah G., *Every Tub Must Sit on Its Own Bottom: The Philosophy and Politics of Zora Neale Hurston* (1992)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Subject Guide



Michael Hooks

Contact Info

Department of Special Collections
Doheny Memorial Library, Room B-25
213-740-8180
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

[Archives](#), [Regional History](#), [Political History](#)

Powered by [Springshare](#); All rights reserved. [Report a tech support issue](#).
View this page in a format suitable for [printers](#) and [screen-readers](#) or [mobile devices](#).

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide

Visions & Voices: Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

 Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=306311> | [Print Guide](#) | [Email Alerts](#)
[Home](#) | [Books by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Books About Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Other Writings by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Zora Neale Hurston Papers](#) | [WEBSITES](#)

 Other Writings by Zora Neale Hurston | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [Print Page](#) | Search:

Essays, Plays, Short Stories

Other writings by Ms. Hurston include:

- "O Night," poem (1921)
- "John Redding Goes to Sea," short story (1921)
- "Poem," (1922)
- "Spunk," short story (1925)
- "Color Streak," play (1925)
- "The Hue and Cry about Howard University," article (1925)
- "Sweat," short story (1926)
- "Color Struck, A Play in Four Scenes, in Fire!!," poem (1926)
- "Cudjo's Own Story of the Last African Slaver," article (1927)
- "Communication," article (1927)
- "How It Feels to be Colored Me," essay (1928)
- "Dance Songs and Tales from the Bahamas," article (1930)
- "Hoodoo in America," article (1931)
- "Race Cannot Become Great Until It Recognizes Its Talent," article (1934)
- "Negroes Without Self-Pity," article (1943)
- "The Last Slave Ship," article (1944)
- "I Saw Negro Votes Peddled," article (1950)
- "What White Publishers Won't Print," article (1950)
- "Mourner's Bench, Communist Line: Why the Negro Won't Buy Communism," article (1951)
- "A Negro Voter Sizes Up Taft," article (1951)
- "Zora's Revealing Story of Ruby's First Day in Court" article (1952)
- "Hoodoo and Black Magic," weekly column (1958-1959)
- "The Farm Laborer at Home," article (1959)

For the complete citation of each of the above, see:

Women In History: Living vignettes of notable women from U.S. history, *Zora Neale Hurston: Extended Profile*

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Subject Guide



Michael Hooks

Contact Info

 Department of Special Collections
 Doheny Memorial Library, Room B-25
 213-740-8180
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

[Archives](#), [Regional History](#), [Political History](#)

Visions & Voices: Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=306311> | [Print Guide](#) | [Email Alerts](#)

[Home](#) | [Books by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Books About Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Other Writings by Zora Neale Hurston](#) | [Zora Neale Hurston Papers](#) | [WEBSITES](#)

[Zora Neale Hurston Papers](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [Print Page](#) | Search:

Manuscript Collections

Manuscript collections that contain materials by and about Zora Neale Hurston include these:

[Zora Neale Hurston Papers](#), Special and Area Studies Collections, Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

[Zora Neale Hurston Collection](#), Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, New York Public Library

[Clippings File of the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection](#), Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Subject Guide



Michael Hooks

Contact Info

Department of Special Collections
Doheny Memorial Library, Room B-25
213-740-8180
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

[Archives](#), [Regional History](#), [Political History](#)

Powered by [Springshare](#); All rights reserved. [Report a tech support issue](#).
View this page in a format suitable for [printers](#) and [screen-readers](#) or [mobile devices](#).

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide

Visions & Voices: Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words

Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013 | URL: <http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=306311> | [Print Guide](#) | [Email Alerts](#)

Some Websites of Interest

Websites where additional information about Zora Neale Hurston is found include:

Gale: Free Resources: Black History: Biographies, *Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)*

Reuben, Paul P., PAL: *Perspectives in American Literature - A Research and Reference Guid - An Ongoing Project, Chapter 9: Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)*

Women In History: Living vignettes of notable women from U.S. history, *Zora Neale Hurston: Extended Profile*

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Subject Guide



Michael Hooks

Contact Info

Department of Special Collections
Doheny Memorial Library, Room B-25
213-740-8180
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

[Archives](#), [Regional History](#), [Political History](#)

Powered by [Springshare](#); All rights reserved. [Report a tech support issue](#).
View this page in a format suitable for [printers](#) and [screen-readers](#) or [mobile devices](#).

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide