

ANTICIPATION STRATEGY GUIDE FOR *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY:

This guide raises questions that the novel addresses. Students access their prior knowledge before reading to assess their own opinions about the major issues and themes that will be discussed including independence, speech, and the search for identity. They will write in their journals reflecting on their opinions about these statements before reading the novel. After reading, they will revisit their journal entries and respond to them indicating whether their opinions changed and why, based on what they have learned from the novel.

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Distribute a copy of the Anticipation Guide to each student. You may also want to make a transparency to guide the discussion. Go over the directions and each of the questions with the class, being sure to encourage them to answer however they like—there are no “right” or “wrong” answers.

STEP 2: Have the students respond to 2-4 of the statements in their journals using their own experiences and insights to justify why they agree or disagree.

STEP 3: After the students have finished responding to all 7 statements, divide the class into groups of 3-4. Allow the students to discuss the answers they chose and why. Again, stress that there are no wrong or right answers, but ask the students to defend their answers based on personal experiences, previous readings, and/or other prior knowledge. Following group discussion time, lead a class discussion on two or three of the statements.

STEP 4: After the students have read the novel completely, have them again look at the anticipation guide. Follow the directions from Step One again, only this time ask the students to fill in the AFTER set of statements.

STEP 5: Lead a class discussion comparing students' before and after answers. Have some of their responses changed? If so, discuss what made the difference. If students' opinions are the same, discuss if anything from the novel helped them to solidify their initial responses. Encourage students to use the text in their responses.

ASSESSMENT:

Various ways to assess the students' understanding of the themes found in this anticipation guide could include the following:

- Write a one-page paper on one of the statements from the Anticipation Guide. What was your response before you read the novel? Why? What was your response after reading the novel? Why? Use examples from the text.
- Read one of your journal entries before you read the novel and write a response to it. Do you think any differently now about some issues than you did before you read the novel? Explain why your opinion changed or stayed the same using examples from the text.

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Directions: Read each question carefully and mark whether you strongly disagree (SD), disagree (D), agree (A), or strongly agree (SA).

BEFORE

1. People should never follow their cultural and social traditions if they don't agree with them.
2. Being able to speak and express ideas is often a sign of being independent.
3. Fulfillment comes from being able to control those around you.
4. People will never find fulfillment in taking part in something they only partially believe in.
5. In most cases, people should always do what their parent or guardian wants them to do.
6. People should always follow their dreams.
7. In most situations people find it difficult to find their own voice.
8. Most people have to live according to the dictates of their own heart to be happy.

AFTER

1. People should never follow their cultural and social traditions if they don't agree with them.
2. Being able to speak and express ideas is often a sign of being independent.
3. Fulfillment comes from being able to control those around you.
4. People will never find fulfillment in taking part in something they only partially believe in.
5. In most cases, people should always do what their parent or guardian wants them to do.
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7. In most situations people find it difficult to find their own voice.
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