EN 131 Emergency Lesson Plans

In the foreword to Dust Tracks on a Road, Maya Angelou writes:

“There is a saying in the Black community that advises: ‘If a person asks you where you’re going, you tell him where you’ve been. That way you neither lie nor reveal your secrets’” (Page xii).

Read Dust Tracks on a Road (Chapters 1-3). Then complete the two following journal entries.

Journal Entry #1: Explain how Angelou’s quote applies to Hurston’s autobiography. Reflect on what Hurston reveals about the purpose of her autobiography. What information does Hurston include in this autobiography? How does explaining where she has been (and including more general historical information) support Hurston’s purpose for writing this autobiography?

Journal Entry #2: "Where have you been?” Reflect on your own autobiographical writing that you will do this semester in EN 131. Reflect on one or two of your past experiences. How might they help your reader understand where you have been and where you are going?

EN 132 Emergency Plans

Read chapters 1-5 of Their Eyes Were Watching God and then write a journal response for each of the following questions:

1. Is there a difference between the language of the men and that of Janie or the other women? How do the novel's first two paragraphs point to these differences?

2. The novel's action begins with a judgment scene. Why are the other characters judging Janie? Who are her critics and who defends her? Why do you think these other characters take the stances that they do?