

## Zora Neale Hurston- “How it feels to be Colored Me”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Read the selection first, and then answer the following:**

### **General Questions:**

1. Hurston presents herself as happy with who she is, especially with her race. Do you think her experience and attitude are characteristic of most people? Why or why not?

2. What does Hurston see as the advantages for her of being “colored”?

3. Consider Hurston’s presentation of herself from the standpoint of race. How does Hurston use her race to define herself, and how does she use race to convey her attitudes towards both others and towards herself?

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### Define the Quote:

4. *“Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It’s beyond me”* (1712 [full ed.] 2160 [shorter ed.]). A great deal of Hurston’s denial of the adverse psychological effects of racism may be bravado.

-How does the tone of “How It Feels to be Colored Me” convince its readers that she has personally overcome racism?

5. *“Hurston became an orphan at nine, a runaway at fourteen, maid and manicurist before she was twenty, and with one dress and a dream-managed to become Zora Neale Hurston, author and anthropologist.”*

-Based on this statement, what can you infer about Zora Neale Hurston’s personality and life?