

Name _____ Class pd. ____ Date _____ Score _____

Text Dependent Questions for
Zora Neale Hurston's "How It Feels to Be Colored Me"

1. What is the effect of the opening sentence on you, the reader?
2. What is the prevailing rhetorical or persuasive strategy in paragraphs 1-5? Consider the opening sentence, the one that follows ("I remember the very day that I became colored"), the description of the front porch scene, and paragraph 5 where she says she "suffered a sea change."
3. Identify the arguments Hurston counters in this essay. For example, what is the argument that prompts her to counter, "But I am not tragically colored" in paragraph 6?
4. What is the effect of Hurston's metaphor, describing the end of slavery, in paragraph 7?
5. What is the purpose of paragraph 8? What is the "dark ghost" she refers to?
6. How would you characterize the language Hurston uses in paragraph 11 to describe her reaction to the music in The New World Cabaret?
7. Hurston purports to be debunking stereotypes, but are there instances in which she might be criticized for playing to stereotypical notions of African Americans? Explain.

