

“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston

Galatians 6:7-8: *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*

Job 4:8: *“Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.”*

Sweat can be read either as a woman’s coming to independence and strength, or as a Christian woman’s fall. Find three quotes to back your own side, and two to back the opposite point of view.

Consider the following:

- The narrator or narrative voice: how does it impact the plot and how you see the characters? How does this matter to the overall meaning of the plot? (find an example)
- The Christian context
- The meaning of the final sentence
- Sykes calling out to Delia and her response
- Does Delia grow or diminish? Is she blameless?
- Does the narrator let (or try to let) Delia off the hook? How so?
- Is this a moral or an immoral story? Where does it locate the reader? Who do you sympathize with?