

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston

The Enduring Charm of The Gilded Six Bits by Zora Neale Hurston

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston is a captivating short story that has fascinated readers for decades with its rich portrayal of love, trust, and materialism in African American life during the early 20th century. Written by one of the most influential figures of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston, the story combines vibrant characters, cultural depth, and emotional complexity in a way that continues to resonate with audiences today. Exploring the themes, symbolism, and cultural background of this literary gem offers not only a deeper appreciation for Hurston's storytelling genius but also a window into the social dynamics of its time.

Understanding The Gilded Six Bits and Its Place in Literature

Zora Neale Hurston's "The Gilded Six Bits" was first published in 1933 and has since become a staple in American literature courses, especially those focusing on African American narratives and the Harlem Renaissance. The story's title itself is intriguing: "six bits" refers to seventy-five cents, a small amount of money, but "gilded" suggests something deceptively valuable or shiny on the surface.

What Does the Story Explore?

At its core, the story follows a young married couple, Joe and Missie May, living in a close-knit African American community. Their lives take a turn when a smooth-talking stranger, Otis D. Slemmons, flaunts his wealth and charms Missie May, leading to a series of events that test the couple's relationship, trust, and understanding of true wealth.

The narrative beautifully contrasts appearances and reality, emphasizing how material possessions can mask deeper emotional truths. The story challenges readers to reflect on what truly matters in life — love, honesty, and forgiveness — rather than superficial glamour.

Thematic Depth in The Gilded Six Bits Zora Neale Hurston

Hurston's storytelling is renowned for its rich thematic layers. In "The Gilded Six Bits," several themes stand out, each contributing to the story's enduring impact.

Love and Trust in Marriage

The relationship between Joe and Missie May is tender and authentic, marked by playful affection and mutual respect. However, the intrusion of Slemmons' flashy lifestyle introduces doubt and betrayal. Hurston doesn't shy away from depicting the complexities and vulnerabilities inherent in intimate relationships. The story ultimately underscores that trust and forgiveness are fundamental to sustaining love, especially when external forces threaten to break it.

Materialism vs. True Wealth

Slemmons represents the allure of material wealth — flashy clothes, gold coins, and ostentatious displays. Yet, Hurston's narrative reveals that such external wealth is "gilded," or superficially shiny but lacking real value. Joe and Missie May's modest life, grounded in genuine affection and community, contrasts sharply with Slemmons' hollow riches. This theme invites reflection on the American Dream and the often misguided pursuit of wealth at the expense of personal integrity and happiness.

Community and Cultural Identity

Set in a Southern Black community, the story richly portrays cultural nuances through dialect, traditions, and social interactions. Hurston, an anthropologist as well as a writer, skillfully weaves folklore and vernacular speech into her narrative, grounding it in authentic African American experiences. This cultural specificity adds layers of meaning and connects the story to broader discussions of racial identity and heritage.

Symbolism and Literary Devices in The Gilded Six Bits

Hurston's use of symbolism and literary techniques enhances the story's emotional and thematic resonance.

The Gilded Six Bits as a Symbol

The six bits themselves symbolize more than money; they represent illusion and the deceptive nature of appearances. Slemmons' gold coins are "gilded," meaning they are coated with a thin layer of gold but are not truly valuable. This mirrors the story's exploration of how superficial wealth can mask emptiness or deceit.

Dialect and Dialogue

Hurston's use of authentic dialect not only adds realism but also celebrates African American oral traditions. The lively conversations between characters provide insight into their personalities and social dynamics, making the story feel vibrant and alive.

Foreshadowing and Irony

The story employs subtle foreshadowing, such as Slemmons' flamboyant entrance, hinting at the disruption to come. Irony permeates the narrative, especially in how the characters' perceptions of wealth and happiness are overturned by the truth revealed at the end.

Why The Gilded Six Bits Remains Relevant Today

Despite being written nearly a century ago, "The Gilded Six Bits" continues to speak to contemporary readers for several reasons.

Exploration of Universal Human Experiences

Themes of love, trust, betrayal, and forgiveness are timeless. Readers from diverse backgrounds can relate to the emotional struggles faced by Joe and Missie May, making the story's lessons about resilience and understanding deeply resonant.

Insight into African American Culture and History

Hurston's vivid portrayal of Black life during the early 1900s provides valuable historical and cultural context. For those interested in African American literature or history, the story offers a nuanced glimpse into the daily lives, values, and challenges of a community often marginalized in mainstream narratives.

Engaging Storytelling Style

Hurston's narrative voice is warm, humorous, and richly descriptive, captivating readers from start to finish. The story's relatively short length makes it accessible, yet its depth provides ample material for discussion and analysis in academic and book club settings.

Tips for Reading and Analyzing The Gilded Six

Bits

If you're approaching this classic for the first time or preparing to study it more closely, here are some strategies to enhance your experience:

- **Pay Attention to Dialogue:** Notice how the characters speak and what their words reveal about their personalities and relationships.
- **Consider the Historical Context:** Research the Harlem Renaissance and African American life in the 1930s to better understand the setting and cultural references.
- **Reflect on Symbolism:** Think about what the gilded six bits represent in the story and how this symbolism ties into the broader themes.
- **Explore Character Motivations:** Analyze why Missie May acts as she does and how Joe's response reflects larger themes of forgiveness and love.
- **Engage with Critical Perspectives:** Reading scholarly interpretations can offer new insights into the story's meaning and significance.

Zora Neale Hurston's Legacy Through The Gilded Six Bits

Zora Neale Hurston remains a towering figure in American literature, and "The Gilded Six Bits" is a shining example of her talent for storytelling infused with cultural authenticity and emotional depth. Beyond this short story, Hurston's broader body of work, including her acclaimed novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God," has inspired generations of writers and scholars.

Her unique perspective as an African American woman during the Harlem Renaissance allowed her to challenge stereotypes and celebrate the richness of Black life and folklore. Through stories like "The Gilded Six Bits," Hurston invites readers to appreciate the complexity of human relationships and the often-overlooked beauty of everyday experiences.

Exploring this story not only enriches one's understanding of literature but also offers a meaningful connection to a vital chapter in American cultural history. For anyone curious about the intersections of race, class, love, and identity, "The Gilded Six Bits" remains a compelling and rewarding read.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Gilded Six-Bits' by Zora Neale Hurston?

'The Gilded Six-Bits' explores themes of love, trust, betrayal, and forgiveness within a marital relationship, highlighting the complexities of human emotions and social class.

Who are the central characters in 'The Gilded Six-Bits'?

The central characters are Joe and Missie May, a happily married African American couple, and Otis D. Slemmons, a wealthy man who tempts Missie May.

How does Zora Neale Hurston portray African American culture in 'The Gilded Six-Bits'?

Hurston portrays African American culture with richness and authenticity, emphasizing community life, folklore, dialect, and traditions in a 1920s Southern setting.

What is the significance of the gilded six-bits coin in the story?

The gilded six-bits coin symbolizes false appearances and deception; it looks valuable like real gold but is actually worthless, paralleling Slemmons' character and the theme of trust.

How does 'The Gilded Six-Bits' reflect the Harlem Renaissance movement?

'The Gilded Six-Bits' reflects the Harlem Renaissance by celebrating Black life and culture, using vernacular language and focusing on everyday experiences of African Americans.

What role does forgiveness play in 'The Gilded Six-Bits'?

Forgiveness is crucial in the story, as Joe ultimately forgives Missie May after her brief infidelity, which restores their marriage and emphasizes healing and understanding.

How does Zora Neale Hurston use symbolism in 'The Gilded Six-Bits'?

Hurston uses symbolism like the gilded coin to represent superficial wealth and deception, and the family's home to symbolize stability and love.

What is the setting of 'The Gilded Six-Bits' and why is it important?

The story is set in a small Southern Black community during the 1920s, which is important as it grounds the narrative in a specific cultural and historical context influencing the characters' lives.

How does 'The Gilded Six-Bits' address issues of economic status?

The story contrasts Joe's modest but honest livelihood with Slemmons' flashy display of wealth, examining how economic status affects identity, respect, and relationships.

Additional Resources

The Gilded Six Bits by Zora Neale Hurston: A Timeless Exploration of Love, Materialism, and Identity

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston stands as one of the most poignant short stories penned by the celebrated African American author, folklorist, and anthropologist. First published in 1933, this narrative captures the intricate dynamics of love, trust, and materialism within the context of African American life in the early twentieth century. Hurston's mastery of vernacular dialogue and her insightful portrayal of human emotions provide readers with a rich and multifaceted exploration of themes that continue to resonate in contemporary literary discourse.

Contextual Background and Literary Significance

Zora Neale Hurston emerged as a significant figure during the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural, social, and artistic explosion centered in Harlem, New York, spanning the 1920s and 1930s. While much of her work focuses on the lives and folklore of African Americans in the rural South, "The Gilded Six Bits" offers a snapshot of working-class life imbued with universal themes. The story's setting—a modest household in an African American community—serves as a microcosm for examining broader societal tensions between appearance and reality, wealth and poverty, and fidelity and temptation.

Hurston's use of dialect and local color enriches the narrative, providing authenticity and depth. This technique not only grounds the story in a specific cultural milieu but also challenges dominant literary norms of her time, which often marginalized or stereotyped African American voices. The story's enduring popularity in academic and literary circles highlights its importance in the canon of American literature and African American studies.

In-Depth Analysis of Themes and Characters

Materialism Versus Genuine Love

At the heart of *The Gilded Six Bits* lies a tension between material wealth and authentic affection. The story follows Joe and Missie May, a young couple whose marriage is tested by an encounter with Otis D. Slemmons, a wealthy and flashy man who flaunts his opulence symbolized by his "gilded six bits"—a term referring to a shiny coin. Slemmons' outward

display of wealth serves as a catalyst for Missie May's momentary lapse in fidelity, motivated by a desire to experience luxury beyond her modest means.

Hurston skillfully contrasts the superficial allure of gold and wealth with the enduring value of emotional connection. The gilded six bits themselves become a metaphor for things that appear valuable but lack true substance. Through this symbolism, the narrative critiques societal preoccupations with material success, suggesting that such pursuits may lead to moral compromise or relational breakdown.

Marriage, Trust, and Forgiveness

The story's emotional core revolves around the complexities of marriage, particularly trust and forgiveness. Joe's initial reaction to Missie May's betrayal is one of hurt and anger, yet the couple's eventual reconciliation underscores the power of forgiveness in restoring relational harmony. Hurston does not present this resolution as simplistic or idealized; rather, it reflects the nuanced reality of human relationships, acknowledging pain while affirming the possibility of healing.

The narrative also explores gender dynamics within the marriage. Missie May's infidelity, while significant, is portrayed with empathy, inviting readers to consider the social and economic pressures that influence personal decisions. Joe's willingness to forgive reflects a mature understanding of love's imperfections.

Symbolism and Narrative Structure

Hurston's storytelling is marked by rich symbolism and carefully crafted narrative pacing. The "gilded six bits" themselves are central symbols—glittering but ultimately hollow. The coin's presence in the story prompts reflection on the difference between appearance and reality, a theme that resonates beyond the immediate plot.

The narrative unfolds in a linear fashion, allowing readers to witness the progression of events and emotional shifts with clarity. Hurston's use of vernacular dialogue not only adds authenticity but also enhances character development, revealing the personalities and values of Joe, Missie May, and Slemmons through their speech patterns and interactions.

Comparative Perspectives and Literary Impact

When compared to other works of the Harlem Renaissance, *The Gilded Six Bits* stands out for its focus on everyday life rather than overt political commentary or grand historical narratives. Unlike Langston Hughes' poetry or Claude McKay's politically charged novels, Hurston's story zeroes in on intimate personal experiences, thereby humanizing the African American community in nuanced ways.

Moreover, the story's exploration of themes such as materialism and infidelity parallels broader American literary traditions that examine the American Dream's promises and

pitfalls. Hurston's unique contribution lies in her cultural specificity and linguistic authenticity, which provide fresh perspectives on universal human concerns.

The story has been widely anthologized and continues to be studied in literature and African American studies courses. Its adaptability for dramatic readings and classroom discussions attests to its enduring relevance and accessibility.

Pros and Cons in Modern Interpretation

- **Pros:**

- Authentic representation of African American vernacular and culture.
- Complex characterizations that challenge stereotypes.
- Timeless themes of love, trust, and the pitfalls of materialism.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the dialect challenging to understand initially.
- The story's brevity may leave certain plot elements and motivations underexplored.
- Interpretations may vary widely, potentially complicating consensus on the story's moral messages.

Relevance in Contemporary Literary and Cultural Discussions

In today's literary landscape, *The Gilded Six Bits* remains a vital text for examining intersections of race, class, and gender. The story's emphasis on the tension between economic aspirations and personal integrity echoes ongoing societal debates about consumerism and material success.

Additionally, Hurston's portrayal of a resilient African American couple navigating challenges resonates with contemporary discussions on representation and the complexity of black identities. The story invites renewed critical attention to how narratives of love and betrayal are articulated within marginalized communities.

Its study also encourages reflection on how cultural heritage shapes storytelling styles and themes, highlighting the importance of preserving diverse voices in literature.

In sum, the *Gilded Six Bits* by Zora Neale Hurston offers a richly layered narrative that transcends its historical context to engage with enduring human themes. Through its evocative symbolism, authentic dialogue, and nuanced character portrayals, the story continues to invite analysis and appreciation from scholars, students, and general readers alike. Its place within both the Harlem Renaissance and the broader canon of American literature underscores the lasting impact of Hurston's artistic vision.

[The Gilded Six Bits by Zora Neale Hurston](#)

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: A Study Guide for Zora Neale Hurston's "Gilded Six-Bits" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-07-12 A Study Guide for Zora Neale Hurston's *Gilded Six-Bits*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Short Stories for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Short Stories for Students* for all of your research needs.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: *Zora Neale Hurston* Cynthia Davis, Verner D. Mitchell, 2013-05-09 Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), the most prominent of the Harlem Renaissance women writers, was unique because her social and professional connections were not limited to literature but encompassed theatre, dance, film, anthropology, folklore, music, politics, high society, academia, and artistic bohemia. Hurston published four novels, three books of nonfiction, and dozens of short stories, plays, and essays. In addition, she won a long list of fellowships and prizes, including a Guggenheim and a Rosenwald. Yet by the 1950s, Hurston, like most of her Harlem Renaissance peers, had faded into oblivion. An essay by Alice Walker in the 1970s, however, spurred the revival of Hurston's literary reputation, and her works, including her 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, have enjoyed an enduring popularity. *Zora Neale Hurston: An Annotated Bibliography of Works and Criticism* consists of reviews of critical interpretations of Hurston's work. In addition to publication information, each selection is carefully crafted to capture the author's thesis in a short, pithy, analytical framework. Also included are original essays by eminent Hurston scholars that contextualize the bibliographic entries. Meticulously researched but accessible, these essays focus on gaps in Hurston criticism and outline new directions for Hurston scholarship in the twenty-first century. Comprehensive and up-to-date, this volume contains analytical summaries of the most important critical writings on Zora Neale Hurston from the 1970s to the present. In addition, entries from difficult-to-locate sources, such as small academic presses or international journals, can be found here. Although intended as a bibliographic resource for graduate and undergraduate students, this volume is also aimed toward general readers interested in women's literature, African American literature, American history, and popular culture. The book will also appeal to scholars and teachers studying twentieth-century American literature, as well as those specializing in anthropology, modernism, and African American studies, with a special focus on the women of the Harlem Renaissance.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: *The Assertive Woman in Zora Neale Hurston's Fiction, Folklore, and Drama* Pearlle Mae Fisher Peters, 2015-12-22 Hurston was renowned for her portrayal of assertive women in her fiction, folklore, and drama. This book explores her development as an assertive woman and outspoken writer, emphasizing the impact of the African American oral

traditions and vernacular speech patterns of Harlem, Polk County, and her hometown of Eatonville, Florida on the development of her personal and artistic voice. The study traces the development of her assertive women characters, the emphasis upon verbal performance and verbal empowerment, the significance of down home Southern humor, and the importance of an ideology of assertive individualism in Hurston's writings and analyzes changes in Hurston's personal style. Hurston articulated an assertive spirit and voice that had a profound influence on the development of her professional reputation and on the course of African American literature, folklore, and culture of the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. This study combines literary criticism and biography in tracing her often controversial career. This wide-ranging book focuses upon links between Hurston's fiction and nonfiction, and includes analysis of her plays, which have often been neglected in studies of her writing. (Ph.D. dissertation, State University of New York-Buffalo, 1989; revised with new introduction)

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Companion to Literature Abby H. P. Werlock, 2009 Praise for the previous edition: Booklist/RBB Twenty Best Bets for Student Researchers RUSA/ALA Outstanding Reference Source ... useful ... Recommended for public libraries and undergraduates.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Critical Companion to Zora Neale Hurston Sharon Lynette Jones, 2009 Zora Neale Hurston, one the first great African-American novelists, was a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance and an inspiration for future generations of writers. Widely studied in high school literature courses, her novels are admired for their depiction of southern African-American culture and their strong female characters. *Critical Companion to Zora Neale Hurston* is a reliable and up-to-date resource for high school and college-level students, providing information on Hurston's life and work. This new volume covers all her writings, including her classic novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, her landmark works of folklore and anthropology, and her shorter works, such as *The Gilded Six-Bits*. Detailed entries on Hurston's life and related people, places, and topics round out this comprehensive guide.--BOOK JACKET.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Liberating Voices Gayl Jones, 1991 The powerful novelist here turns penetrating critic, giving us a lively style—both trenchant literary analysis and fresh insight on the art of writing. “When African American writers began to trust the literary possibilities of their own verbal and musical creations,” writes Gayl Jones, they began to transform the European and European American models, and to gain greater artistic sovereignty. “The vitality of African American literature derives from its incorporation of traditional oral forms: folktales, riddles, idiom, jazz rhythms, spirituals, and blues. Jones traces the development of this literature as African American writers, celebrating their oral heritage, developed distinctive literary forms. The twentieth century saw a new confidence and deliberateness in African American work: the move from surface use of dialect to articulation of a genuine black voice; the move from blacks portrayed for a white audience to characterization relieved of the need to justify. Innovative writing—such as Charles Waddell Chesnut’s depiction of black folk culture, Langston Hughes’s poetic use of blues, and Amiri Baraka’s recreation of the short story as a jazz piece—redefined Western literary tradition. For Jones, literary technique is never far removed from its social and political implications. She documents how literary form is inherently and intensely national, and shows how the European monopoly on acceptable forms for literary art stifled American writers both black and white. Jones is especially eloquent in describing the dilemma of the African American writers: to write from their roots yet retain a universal voice; to merge the power and fluidity of oral tradition with the structure needed for written presentation. With this work Gayl Jones has added a new dimension to African American literary history.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Sweat Zora Neale Hurston, 1997 Now frequently anthologized, Zora Neale Hurston's short story *Sweat* was first published in *Fire!!*, a legendary literary magazine of the Harlem Renaissance, whose sole issue appeared in November 1926. Among contributions by Gwendolyn Bennett, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Wallace Thurman, *Sweat* stood out both for its artistic accomplishment and its exploration of rural Southern black life. In *Sweat* Hurston claimed the voice that animates her mature fiction, notably the 1937 novel *Their*

Eyes Were Watching God; the themes of marital conflict and the development of spiritual consciousness were introduced as well. *Sweat* exemplifies Hurston's lifelong concern with women's relation to language and the literary possibilities of black vernacular. This casebook for the story includes an introduction by the editor, a chronology of the author's life, the authoritative text of *Sweat*, and a second story, *The Gilded Six-Bits*. Published in 1932, this second story was written after Hurston had spent years conducting fieldwork in the Southern United States. The volume also includes Hurston's groundbreaking 1934 essay, *Characteristics of Negro Expression*, and excerpts from her autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*. An article by folklorist Roger Abrahams provides additional cultural contexts for the story, as do selected blues and spirituals. Critical commentary comes from Alice Walker, who led the recovery of Hurston's work in the 1970s, Robert Hemenway, Henry Louis Gates, Gayl Jones, John Lowe, Kathryn Seidel, and Mary Helen Washington.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Economics Paul Crosthwaite, Peter Knight, Nicky Marsh, 2022-08-11 This book provides a comprehensive and authoritative guide to the interdisciplinary field of literature and economics.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: *Faulkner and the Black Literatures of the Americas* Jay Watson, James G. Thomas Jr., 2016-05-05 Contributions by Ted Atkinson, Thadious M. Davis, Matthew Dischinger, Dotty Dye, Chiyuma Elliott, Doreen Fowler, Joseph Fruscione, T. Austin Graham, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Derrick Harriell, Lisa Hinrichsen, Randall Horton, George Hutchinson, Andrew B. Leiter, John Wharton Lowe, Jamaal May, Ben Robbins, Tim A. Ryan, Sharon Eve Sarthou, Jenna Sciuto, James Smethurst, and Jay Watson At the turn of the millennium, the Martinican novelist Édouard Glissant offered the bold prediction that "Faulkner's oeuvre will be made complete when it is revisited and made vital by African Americans," a goal that "will be achieved by a radically 'other' reading." In the spirit of Glissant's prediction, this collection places William Faulkner's literary oeuvre in dialogue with a hemispheric canon of black writing from the United States and the Caribbean. The volume's seventeen essays and poetry selections chart lines of engagement, dialogue, and reciprocal resonance between Faulkner and his black precursors, contemporaries, and successors in the Americas. Contributors place Faulkner's work in illuminating conversation with writings by Paul Laurence Dunbar, W. E. B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Jean Toomer, Nella Larsen, Claude McKay, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Ernest J. Gaines, Marie Vieux-Chauvet, Toni Morrison, Edwidge Danticat, Randall Kenan, Edward P. Jones, and Natasha Trethewey, along with the musical artistry of Mississippi bluesman Charley Patton. In addition, five contemporary African American poets offer their own creative responses to Faulkner's writings, characters, verbal art, and historical example. In these ways, the volume develops a comparative approach to the Faulkner oeuvre that goes beyond the compelling but limiting question of influence—who read whom, whose works draw from whose—to explore the confluences between Faulkner and black writing in the hemisphere.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Modern and Contemporary American Literature María Magdalena GARCÍA LORENZO, Ana Isabel ZAMORANO RUEDA, 2013-02-06 Dirigido a estudiantes de la UNED para la asignatura Literatura Norteamericana y Contemporanea del grado Estudios Ingleses: Lengua, Literatura y Cultura. Ofrece un recorrido por la vida de los autores, las preocupaciones del siglo XX en la literatura americana y presta principal atención al modernismo y al posmodernismo como grandes momentos culturales.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: *Eudora Welty* Ann Waldron, 2010-12-22 Eudora Welty is a beloved institution of Southern fiction and American literature, whose closely guarded privacy has prevented a full-scale study of her life and work--until now. A significant contribution to the world of letters, Ann Waldron's biography chronicles the history and achievements of one of our greatest living authors, from a Mississippi childhood to the sale of her first short story, from her literary friendships with Katherine Anne Porter and Elizabeth Bowen to her rivalry with Carson McCullers. Elegant and authoritative, this first biography to chart the life of a national treasure is a must-have for Welty fans and scholars everywhere.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Framing the Environmental Humanities ,

2018-07-17 The concept of framing has long intrigued and troubled scholars in fields including philosophy, rhetoric, media studies and literary criticism. But framing also has rich implications for environmental debate, urging us to reconsider how we understand the relationship between humans and their ecological environment, culture and nature. The contributors to this wide-ranging volume use the concept of framing to engage with key questions in environmental literature, history, politics, film, TV, and pedagogy. In so doing, they show that framing can serve as a valuable analytical tool connecting different academic discourses within the emergent interdisciplinary field of the environmental humanities. No less importantly, they demonstrate how increased awareness of framing strategies and framing effects can help us move society in a more sustainable direction.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Facing the Abyss George Hutchinson, 2018-01-23 Mythologized as the era of the “good war” and the “Greatest Generation,” the 1940s are frequently understood as a more heroic, uncomplicated time in American history. Yet just below the surface, a sense of dread, alienation, and the haunting specter of radical evil permeated American art and literature. Writers returned home from World War II and gave form to their disorienting experiences of violence and cruelty. They probed the darkness that the war opened up and confronted bigotry, existential guilt, ecological concerns, and fear about the nature and survival of the human race. In *Facing the Abyss*, George Hutchinson offers readings of individual works and the larger intellectual and cultural scene to reveal the 1940s as a period of profound and influential accomplishment. *Facing the Abyss* examines the relation of aesthetics to politics, the idea of universalism, and the connections among authors across racial, ethnic, and gender divisions. Modernist and avant-garde styles were absorbed into popular culture as writers and artists turned away from social realism to emphasize the process of artistic creation. Hutchinson explores a range of important writers, from Saul Bellow and Mary McCarthy to Richard Wright and James Baldwin. African American and Jewish novelists critiqued racism and anti-Semitism, women writers pushed back on the misogyny unleashed during the war, and authors such as Gore Vidal and Tennessee Williams reflected a new openness in the depiction of homosexuality. The decade also witnessed an awakening of American environmental and ecological consciousness. Hutchinson argues that despite the individualized experiences depicted in these works, a common belief in art’s ability to communicate the universal in particulars united the most important works of literature and art during the 1940s. Hutchinson’s capacious view of American literary and cultural history masterfully weaves together a wide range of creative and intellectual expression into a sweeping new narrative of this pivotal decade.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: The Wiley Blackwell Anthology of African American Literature, Volume 2 Gene Andrew Jarrett, 2014-01-13 The Wiley Blackwell Anthology of African American Literature is a comprehensive collection of poems, short stories, novellas, novels, plays, autobiographies, and essays authored by African Americans from the eighteenth century until the present. Evenly divided into two volumes, it is also the first such anthology to be conceived and published for both classroom and online education in the new millennium. Reflects the current scholarly and pedagogic structure of African American literary studies Selects literary texts according to extensive research on classroom adoptions, scholarship, and the expert opinions of leading professors Organizes literary texts according to more appropriate periods of literary history, dividing them into seven sections that accurately depict intellectual, cultural, and political movements Includes more reprints of entire works and longer selections of major works than any other anthology of its kind This second volume contains a comprehensive collection of texts authored by African Americans from the 1920s to the present The two volumes of this landmark anthology can also be bought as a set, at over 20% savings.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: Disturbing Calculations Melanie Benson Taylor, 2010-01-25 In Thomas Wolfe’s *Look Homeward, Angel*, Margaret Leonard says, “Never mind about algebra here. That’s for poor folks. There’s no need for algebra where two and two make five.” Moments of mathematical reckoning like this pervade twentieth-century southern literature, says Melanie R. Benson. In fiction by a large, diverse group of authors, including William Faulkner, Anita Loos, William Attaway, Dorothy Allison, and Lan Cao, Benson identifies a calculation-obsessed,

anxiety-ridden discourse in which numbers are employed to determine social and racial hierarchies and establish individual worth and identity. This “narcissistic fetish of number” speaks to a tangle of desires and denials rooted in the history of the South, capitalism, and colonialism. No one evades participation in these “disturbing equations,” says Benson, wherein longing for increase, accumulation, and superiority collides with repudiation of the means by which material wealth is attained. Writers from marginalized groups—including African Americans, Native Americans, women, immigrants, and the poor—have deeply internalized and co-opted methods and tropes of the master narrative even as they have struggled to wield new voices unmarked by the discourse of the colonizer. Having nominally emerged from slavery’s legacy, the South is now situated in the agonized space between free market capitalism and social progressivism. Elite southerners work to distance themselves from capitalism’s dehumanizing mechanisms, while the marginalized yearn to realize the uniquely American narrative of accumulation and ascent. The fetish of numbers emerges to signify the futility of both.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: *Icons of African American Literature* Yolanda Williams Page, 2011-10-17 The 24 entries in this book provide extensive coverage of some of the most notable figures in African American literature, such as Alice Walker, Richard Wright, and Zora Neale Hurston. *Icons of African American Literature: The Black Literary World* examines 24 of the most popular and culturally significant topics within African American literature's long and immensely fascinating history. Each piece provide substantial, in-depth information—much more than a typical encyclopedia entry—while remaining accessible and appealing to general and younger readers. Arranged alphabetically, the entries cover such writers as Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, and August Wilson; major works, such as *Invisible Man*, *Native Son*, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; and a range of cultural topics, including the black arts movement, the Harlem Renaissance, and the jazz aesthetic. Written by expert contributors, the essays discuss the enduring significance of these topics in American history and popular culture. Each entry also provides sidebars that highlight interesting information and suggestions for further reading.

the gilded six bits zora neale hurston: *Anti-Apocalypse* Lee Quinby, 1994 *Anti-Apocalypse* was first published in 1994. Minnesota Archive Editions uses digital technology to make long-unavailable books once again accessible, and are published unaltered from the original University of Minnesota Press editions. As the year 2000 looms, heralding a new millennium, apocalyptic thought abounds—and not merely among religious radicals. In politics, science, philosophy, popular culture, and feminist discourse, apprehensions of the End appear in images of cultural decline and urban chaos, forecasts of the end of history and ecological devastation, and visions of a new age of triumphant technology or a gender-free utopia. There is, Lee Quinby contends, a threatening regime of truth prevailing in the United States—and this regime, with its enforcement of absolute truth and morality, imperils democracy. In *Anti-Apocalypse*, Quinby offers a powerful critique of the millenarian rhetoric that pervades American culture. In doing so, she develops strategies for resisting its tyrannies. Drawing on feminist and Foucauldian theory, Quinby explores the complex relationship between power, truth, ethics, and apocalypse. She exposes the ramifications of this relationship in areas as diverse as jeanswear magazine advertising, the Human Genome project, contemporary feminism and philosophy, texts by Henry Adams and Zora Neale Hurston, and radical democratic activism. By bringing together such a wide range of topics, Quinby shows how apocalypse weaves its way through a vast network of seemingly unrelated discourses and practices. Tracing the deployment of power through systems of alliance, sexuality, and technology, Quinby reveals how these power relationships produce conflicting modes of subjectivity that create possibilities for resistance. She promotes a variety of critical stances—genealogical feminism, an ethics of the flesh, and pissed criticism—as challenges to apocalyptic claims for absolute truth and universal morality. Far-reaching in its implications for social and cultural theory as well as for political activism, *Anti-Apocalypse* will engage readers across the cultural spectrum and challenge them to confront one of the most subtle and insidious orthodoxies of our day. Lee Quinby is associate professor of English and American studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. She is the author

of Freedom, Foucault, and the Subject of America (1991) and coeditor (with Irene Diamond) of *Feminism and Foucault: Reflections on Resistance* (1988).

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