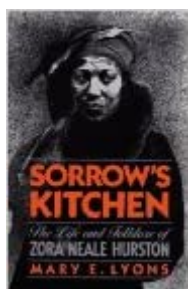


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# Sorrow's Kitchen: The Life And Folklore Of Zora Neale Hurston



## Synopsis

Describes the life and work of the prolific black author who wrote stories, plays, essays, and articles, recorded black folklore, and was involved in the Harlem Renaissance.

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Atheneum; 1st ed edition (October 31, 1990)

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 5.8 x 0.7 inches

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-- A succinct biography of the black novelist whose spirited use of dialect occasioned criticism from other prominent black writers, and who until recently was largely forgotten. Raised in Florida at the turn of the century, Hurston was indefatigable in her pursuit of self-improvement and an outlet for her acknowledged storytelling gift. Although it took many years, she put herself through Howard University, and then went on to Barnard for an advanced degree in anthropology. During these same years, her short stories made her an award-winning contributor to the literature of the Harlem Renaissance, from which she went on to write novels and compile collections of black folklore. Lyons is fond of her subject, and attempts to gild the lily--but Hurston, prickly as a cactus, refuses to gild. Her self-promotion, flamboyance, and inability to maintain stable relationships come through clearly. But so, thanks to the inclusion of generous passages from her various books, does her shining literary gift. While the cover does not grab, a 30-second booktalk using Hurston's traumatic family life or her experience with zombies in Haiti, a telling of one of her folktales, or a quick look at any of the excellent black-and-white photographs that grace the book will catch readers. Even on paper, whether it is in her words or her image, Hurston is a vibrant presence. Young adults who encounter her will come away enriched. A necessary enhancement for any

collection that wants to present the depth and diversity of black history. --Ann Welton, University Child Development School, Seattle Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Mary E. Lyons is the author of many books for children and young adults, including *Roy Makes a Car*, *Feed the Children First*, *Dear Ellen Bee*, *Letters from a Slave Girl*, and *Sorrow's Kitchen*. In addition to the Golden Kite Award and a Horn Book Fanfare for *Letters from a Slave Girl*, Lyons was also the recipient of a 2005 Aesop Award for *Roy Makes a Car* and a Carter G. Woodson Award for *Sorrow's Kitchen*. A teacher and former librarian, she lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. You can learn more about her at [www.lyonsdenbooks.com](http://www.lyonsdenbooks.com). --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

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