

Worksheet 2.1. Suggested Answers: Folk Groups

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

The following suggested answers are not exclusive; they represent only some possibilities. The folk genre will depend on what characteristics students choose. Some possibilities are: folk speech; folk narrative; folk belief; folk costume; calendar customs; etc.

Part One: Student folk groups

Name of folk group	Identifying characteristics	Folk genre
<i>Age:</i> Students may give a specific age cohort or a larger group (teenager). They may also identify themselves with a specific grade level (junior or senior) or program (team, academic or activity group).	Description of typical dress (jeans, school uniforms, t-shirts) Description of habits (texting, sports, “hanging out”) Examples of slang used by this age group	Folk dress Folk objects Folk language
<i>Gender:</i> Male and female are obvious choices. Be sensitive to students who may be transgendered.	Biological characteristics Haircuts, make-up, other characteristics of appearance Dress (identification with colors of blue or pink from birth, for example) (Note that there are fewer differences in activities or dress than there would have been even a generation ago.)	Folk objects Folk dress
<i>Class:</i> Upper, lower, or middle class. Students may not have a realistic picture of where they belong.	Dress; housing; disposable income; car choices; vacations (Note: be wary of stereotypes here.)	Folk dress Folk objects
<i>Family:</i> Family identification seems obvious, but it is important to be sensitive here again.	Students may describe a range of families: nuclear family; extended family; adoptive v biological parents; gay parent(s) v mother/father couple; foster families. Characteristics might include family customs; holidays; particular foods; family “buzzwords”	Folk group(s) Folk customs
<i>Interests:</i> Hobbies, sports, specific subject areas in school, clubs	Characteristics may include sports teams activities and traditions; uniforms; particular aspects of a sport; membership on school or other clubs like chess team; Boy Scouts; etc.	Folk group(s)

<i>Religion:</i>	Religious activities such as attending Mass; singing in a choir; making a bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah; observing Ramadan Specific religious holidays observed Studying language of a particular religion's sacred texts, such as Hebrew or Arabic.	Folk group(s) Folk customs Folk beliefs
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Part Two: Folk Groups in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Remember that this list is not exclusive, but should be used as examples of possible answers:

Name of folk group	Identifying characteristics	Folk genre
Ordinary townspeople of Eatonville	Hard workers during day Relax at night on porches, enjoy gossip Speech is written in "eye dialect" of African Americans in Florida Like to hang out at Jody's store, playing checkers and telling stories	Folk language Folk narrative
Jody and Janie	Considered upper-class in Eatonville because Jody is a rich man, mayor, and store owner. He wants his wife to behave "properly," not sharing in life of community. Live in decent house, have money, good clothing Fancy funeral for Jody when he dies	Folk language Folk dress Funeral customs
African American workers on the "muck"	Casual, transient workers doing agricultural labor Storytelling, card playing and music in jocks in the evening Speech is written in "eye dialect" of African Americans in Florida.	Folk language Folk customs
Seminole Indians	Minor figures Live in Everglades Women follow men "like burros." Are attuned to nature; can predict hurricane	Folk language
Bahamians ("Saws")	Speak own dialect Work on muck during day Have dances every night behind Janie and Tea Cake's cabin.	Folk language Folk music and dance
Whites in Palm Beach	Middle-to-upper class Dress better than agricultural workers Serve on jury, judging Janie for Tea Cake's death Speak standard English, as written by Hurston	Folk costume