**Zora Neale Hurston’s “**[**Sweat**](https://youtu.be/x_9y-YQjlH4)**”**

1. What does Delia do while she works?
2. Why does Sykes say that he scared Delia with the whip?
3. What else might the whip symbolize for African Americans?
4. Why does Delia say that she “aint for no fuss t’night”?
5. Why does Sykes say that Delia is a hypocrite?
6. What does the simile “Delia’s habitual meekness seemed to slip from her shoulders like a blown scarf” suggest about how Delia is changing?
7. What point is Delia making when she says that her “sweat is done paid for this house”? Explain in your own words.
8. In the paragraph that begins “She lay awake…,” what does Delia realize as she reflects on her marriage with Sykes?
9. What is Delia’s one remaining joy in her life?
10. Explain what Delia means when she says “whatever goes over the devil’s back, is got to come under his belly. Sometime or ruther, Sykes, like everybody else, is gointer reap his sowing.”
11. What do the men on the porch criticize about Sykes?
12. Explain Clarke’s metaphor of the “joint uh sugar-cane.” What does he say about the way that some men treat women?
13. What does Old Man Anderson think they should do with Sykes? (What causes a change in their plans?)
14. On what does Old Man Anderson blame Sykes’ “biggety” personality?
15. How do the men on the porch demonstrate that not all men in Delia’s town are like Sykes?
16. How does Sykes taunt Delia as she drives by the store?
17. Why does Sykes say he is not worried about the snake?
18. How does Sykes respond when Delia tells him that she hates him?
19. What does Delia threaten to do the next time that Sykes beats her?
20. Discuss the significance of the matches. Why are there only three left when Delia gets home? How does the lack of matches contribute to Sykes’ death?