* Prom promise—take it!
* Lab 703 tomorrow. . . Register for USA Test Prep if you haven’t already.
* Read “Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston.
* Discuss and answer all of the following questions. You may work with a partner, but you still need to turn in your own copy of questions.

“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston

1. What information does the first part of the story reveal about the social and economic contexts in which Delia and Sykes live?
2. How does Zora Neale Hurston represent Delia and Sykes in the first part of the story?
3. What change can you see in Delia’s behavior towards Sykes in the first part of the story? Discuss what this could tell you about Zora Neale Hurston’s attitude towards gender.
4. In the second part of the story village men on Joe Clarke’s porch talk about Delia. What do you learn more about Delia and Sykes from their talk?
5. Why do you think Sykes dislikes skinny women like Delia? Why does he like fat women like Bertha? What could this tell you about his character?
6. In the third part of the story, there are references to *Gethsemane, the rocks of Calvary* and *Jurden water*? What do they signify in relation to Delia?
7. What could the rattlesnake symbolize in the story?
8. Comment on Delia’s confrontation with her husband in the third part of the story. In what way(s) could this be important in the story?
9. Towards the end of the story, we see Delia “climbing up in the hay barn” and lying there for an hour or more. What does she do there? Why is this important in the story?
10. Comment on Zora Neale Hurston’s use of the sun imagery at the end of the story. What does it represent?
11. Read the last three paragraphs of the story closely and discuss how Zora Neale Hurston represents Delia and Sykes here. Is there any change in their representations?
12. Discuss the reasons for Sykes’ harsh treatment of Delia.
13. Discuss the significance of the title.
14. How does the 3rd person narrative technique contribute to the story?