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The Head-Rag Janie is forced to wear symbolizes her submission and the control Joe has over her. Her hair is a part of her identity, so when he contains it he constrains that as well. Joe also keeps her from having her own identity by referring to her as "Mrs. Mayor", and uses her as a trophy wife. The Head-Rag is symbol of submission to male control, so it makes sense that Janie burns her rags after Jody's death to embrace her newfound freedom.



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