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When Joe purchases a fancy spittoon for both him and Janie, it becomes a symbol of betrayal and stratification for black people in his town. Buying elaborate and unknown objects like this show the townsfolk how much better off their leader is. They didn't know better than to buy an object like this to fit in, so they feel lied to. This coming from a person of their own race make it entirely more hurtful and shows how wealth can separate people.



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