Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Eudora Welty (1909 – 2001)**

* Born in Jackson, Mississippi
* Had a typical, problem-free childhood
* Attended the Mississippi State College for Women, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and attended graduate school at Columbia University/ the financial upheaval of the Depression required her to go back to Jackson, but she never gave up her dream of becoming a writer.
* Known for her often comical, yet poignant, portrayals of life in the South in her novels and short stories
* Won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature with her novel *The Optimist’s Daughter*

**“A Worn Path”** – pp. 1002 – 1017.

1. The name *phoenix* is an allusion to mythology; Phoenix was a bird who lived for several hundred years and then was reborn from its own ashes. How is this an appropriate name for the protagonist of this story?
2. Speaking of the phoenix/bird connection…what other birds do you notice in this story? What does each bird “do” in the story?
3. In the first two paragraphs, Welty goes into great depth in her description of Phoenix. How does the description of Phoenix aid in the development of the story’s meaning?
4. What do the following represent: eyes, barbed wire, the dress, withered cotton field, scarecrow, trees silver in their dead leaves?
5. Describe the entry to the building. What do the stairs, its size, the golden document nailed to its door represent?
6. How is Phoenix treated in the clinic?
7. What does the attendant give Phoenix, and what does Phoenix plan to do with it?
8. What is symbolic about her journey back?