

Read paragraph eleven in Chapter 1 of W. E. B. DuBois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", from "But the facing of so vast a prejudice" to "the sobering realization of the meaning of progress."

1. What kind of "atmosphere" does Du Bois describe in the first sentence?
2. How does the word *breed* impact the tone of sentence?
3. How does Du Bois describe "prejudice" in this sentence? What is the impact of this description?
4. How does the description of "the four winds" contribute to the tone of the excerpt?
5. Who are "the dark hosts"?
6. How does Du Bois's description of African Americans as "diseased and dying" further develop the idea of prejudice?
7. What does Du Bois mean by the phrase "our voting is in vain"?
8. What is the effect of the rhetorical questions beginning "what need of" in this passage?

9. How does Du Bois's idea of the "half-men" further develop the relationship between "the Nation" and "the dark hosts"?

10. According to Du Bois, who is responsible for "the suicide of a race"?

11. What tone does Du Bois create through his word choice and use of rhetoric in paragraph 11?

12. What is the impact of the last sentence on the meaning of the rest of the paragraph?