

Read paragraph twelve in Chapter 1 of W. E. B. DuBois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", from "So dawned the time of Sturm and Drang" to "or her vulgar music with the soul of the Sorrow Songs?"

1. What image does Du Bois use to describe the "storm and stress today"? What is the impact of this description?
2. How does the figurative language in the second half of the first sentence further develop a central idea in the text?
3. What are "[t]he bright ideals of the past" and how have they "waxed and waned"?
4. How and by whom have the past ideals been treated as "over-simple and incomplete"?
5. Why must "[t]he bright ideals of the past" be "melted and welded into one"?
6. What is the impact of the repetition of the phrase "but together" on the meaning and tone of this passage?
7. What does the word "vaster" suggest about the "ideal" African Americans are "striving toward"?
8. How is the "vaster ideal" gained?

9. How does Du Bois clarify what he means by “the unifying ideal of Race”?
  
10. To what central idea does the phrase “fostering and developing the traits and talents of the Negro” connect?
  
11. How does the description of “the ... ideal of Race” as “unifying” refine this central idea?
  
12. How does the phrase “in large conformity to the greater ideals of the American Republic” refine “the ideal of human brotherhood”?
  
13. How does Du Bois continue to develop the idea of “gaining and perfecting ... liberty” (par. 8) in this sentence?
  
14. How does Du Bois’s use of rhetorical questions further refine his idea of “the unifying ideal of Race”?