

Reread and briefly analyze the epigraph to “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” from *The Souls of Black Folk* (from “O water, voice of my heart, crying in the sand” through “water all night long is crying to me.”

1. Whom does the speaker address in the first stanza of the poem? Which details reveal whom the speaker addresses?
2. What is the meaning of unresting in the second stanza? Use the context and the word’s structure to infer the meaning.
3. What is the impact of the word never (epigraph, line 7) on the tone of the poem? What other words and phrases from the stanza have a similar impact on the tone of the poem?
4. What is a central idea developed in the poem? How do specific details shape the central idea?
5. How do Symons’s metaphors and imagery relate to Du Bois’s figurative language in “Of Our Spiritual Strivings”?
6. How is a central idea developed in “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” related or similar to a central idea developed in Symons’s poem?