

Read the eighth paragraph in Chapter 1 of W. E. B. DuBois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", from "Up the new path the advance guard toiled, " to "the obliteration of the Negro home."

1. What does Du Bois's description of Canaan in paragraph 9 suggest about "the mountain path" (par. 8)?
2. How does Du Bois use figurative language to describe the result of this "journey" (par. 9)?
3. What does the result of "the journey" (par. 9) imply about "book-learning" (par. 8)? How does this result connect to a central idea?
4. What can you infer about "the journey" from Du Bois's choice of the word *youth* (par. 9)?
5. How does Du Bois refine the metaphor of "the mountain path to Canaan" (par. 8) in this section of text?
6. To what does Du Bois refer in the phrase "his striving"?
7. How does Du Bois describe "his striving"? What effect does Du Bois create with this description?
8. How does Du Bois describe the process of "revelation" in paragraph 3?

9. How does Du Bois describe the process of “revelation” in paragraph 9?
10. How does Du Bois refine the idea of “revelation” in paragraph 9?
11. How does the description of the “revelation” in paragraph 9 connect to the idea of the veil?
12. What must African Americans do in order “to attain [their] place in the world”?
13. How does the phrase “be himself, and not another” connect to another central idea in the text?
14. How does Du Bois refine the idea of “gaining and perfecting ... liberty” (par. 8) in the first two sentences of this excerpt?
15. What does Du Bois’s word choice suggest about how African Americans experience “social degradation”?
16. Why did African Americans seek “to analyze the burden”?
17. How does the meaning of the “problem” in paragraphs 1–2 help explain why the problem in paragraph 9 is called a “Negro problem”?
18. What is the impact of describing the “Negro problem” as “half-named”?

19. What comparison does Du Bois make between African Americans and their “neighbors”?

20. What does Du Bois suggest through this comparison?

21. How does Du Bois explain the effects of “ignorance”?

22. What imagery does Du Bois use to describe the effect of “two centuries of systematic legal defilement of Negro women”? What is the impact of this imagery?

23. How does Du Bois refine the meaning of “social degradation” in this excerpt?

24. How does Du Bois further develop the idea of the “problem” (par. 1, 2, 6) in this excerpt?