

Read paragraph ten in Chapter 1 of W. E. B. DuB Bois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", from "A people thus handicapped ought not to be asked" to "to whom 'discouragement' is an unwritten word."

1. Why does Du Bois consider African Americans to be "handicapped" (par. 10)? Use evidence from paragraph 9 to support your response.
2. Why should African Americans "not be asked to race with the world" (par. 10)?
3. What is the function of "But alas!" in this context?
4. What does the imagery in paragraph 10 reveal about how "rac[ing] with the world" affects African Americans?
5. What causes "the very soul of" hard-working African Americans to be "darkened"?
6. What is the impact of Du Bois's use of the word "natural" on his description of prejudice?
7. How can the meaning of *culture* clarify the meaning of the word *barbarism* in this context?

8. What might Du Bois's use of parallel structure suggest about how the "[m]en" view the "higher" and "lower" races?
9. How do African Americans respond to the explanation of "the shadow of prejudice"? What might this response suggest about African Americans' own beliefs?
10. How does the word *strange* refine African Americans' attitudes toward this explanation of prejudice?
11. In the sentence beginning "But before that nameless prejudice," how does Du Bois's use of the word "but" further develop African Americans' attitudes towards prejudice?
12. How does Du Bois develop the idea of "nameless prejudice"?
13. Why might prejudice in this passage be "nameless"?
14. What is the impact of Du Bois's repetition of the word "despair" at the end of the paragraph?
15. How does the description of "nameless prejudice" relate to the explanation of "strange prejudice"?
16. What might the phrase "unwritten word" mean in this context? How does this phrase further develop African Americans' attitudes towards prejudice?

