

**Booker T. Washington's *Up from Slavery***  
**W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk***

**Part 1 Biographical Information**

Directions: Read the biographical information about Booker T. Washington (pp. 469 – 471) and W. E. B. Du Bois (pp. 559 – 561) in the Norton Anthology. Record notes below of the key details of each man's life.

<b>Booker T. Washington (1856 – 1915)</b>

<b>W. E. B. Du Bois (1868 – 1963)</b>

**Part 2 from *Up from Slavery***

Directions: Read the excerpt from Washington's autobiography *Up from Slavery* (pp. 471 – 479) and answer the questions below.

1. What is Washington encouraging African Americans to do when he tells them to “cast down their bucket” in making friends?
2. What sort of work is Washington encouraging African Americans to do? And why?

3. What is Washington encouraging white Southerners to do? And why?
4. Louis Harlan, a historian who wrote extensively about Booker T. Washington's life and career, has argued that Washington was willing to ignore evils of racial segregation in the South if it brought financial and professional gains to African Americans. What parts of his Atlanta Exposition Speech (pp. 471 – 474) could be used to support Harlan's conclusion?
5. Raymond Smock, a historian who wrote a book about Washington's career in 2009, has argued that Washington was willing to appease white Southerners' demands for racial inequality in exchange for their support for his plans. What passages could be used to support Smock's conclusion?
6. Given the context of the time, why might Washington have chosen to look the other way on segregation and to appease white Southerners?
7. Historian Louis Harlan, who has been highly critical of Washington's approach to civil rights, acknowledges that Washington privately financed lawsuits that challenged Jim Crow laws. Why might Washington have fought inequality privately instead of openly calling for an end to legal discrimination? Does the fact that he chose to fight Jim Crow laws privately change your understanding of Washington's philosophy?

### **Part 3 from *The Souls of Black Folk***

Directions: Read the excerpt from Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* (pp. 561 – 577) and answer the questions below.

1. What is DuBois's main critique of Washington's approach to civil rights and education?
2. What does DuBois say about Washington's emphasis on pursuing economic advancement for African Americans before pushing for political or social equality?
3. How might have DuBois's background and experiences influenced his perspective on Washington's philosophy?

4. DuBois advocated a different approach to education for African Americans than did Washington. List some textual evidence of these differences.
  
5. DuBois wrote a letter to Washington after the Atlanta speech in 1895, saying “Let me congratulate you heartily upon your phenomenal success at Atlanta—it was a word fitly spoken.” How do DuBois’s sentiments in the letter differ from what he wrote in *The Souls of Black Folk* eight years later? What might explain the differences between what he wrote in this letter and what he wrote in *The Souls of Black Folk*?