The Gift Of Black Folk: The Negroes In The Making Of America

W. E. B Du Bois

In the "Forethought" of The Souls of Black Folk, Du Bois provides an overview of the organization of the essays in this book. Teachers can follow Du Bois's guidance for assigning groups of chapters from the text, as the themes of each chapter often overlap or build on each other. It startled the nation to hear a Negro advocating such a programme after many decades of bitter complaint; it startled and won the applause of the South, it interested and won the admiration of the North; and after confused murmur of protest, it silenced if it did not convert the Negroes themselves (p. 41).
The Souls of Black Folk is a 1903 work of American literature by W. E. B. Du Bois. It is a seminal work in the history of sociology, and a cornerstone of African-American literature. The book contains several essays on race, some of which the magazine Atlantic Monthly had previously published. To develop this work, Du Bois drew from his own experiences as an African American in American society. Outside of its notable relevance in African-American history, The Souls of Black Folk also holds an