

Letter to His Daughter

W. E. B. Du Bois

How does Du Bois turn reassurance into a demanding definition of self-respect?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	1914 letter to Yolande Du Bois - opportunity, identity, and self-mastery

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Above all remember, dear, that you have a great opportunity.
END	Take yourself in hand and master yourself.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dubois-daughter-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how a writer combines affirmation with challenge to define a value.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Du Bois reassures his daughter about difference, then insists that opportunity creates responsibility. The shift matters because encouragement becomes an argument about what dignity requires from the person who possesses it.

MARK

Underline language that reassures Yolande. Circle imperatives telling her what to do. Box the sentence that most clearly links opportunity to responsibility.

NOTICE

- Where does the tone move from comfort to challenge?
- What does Du Bois say matters more than appearance or other people's reactions?
- How do the commands build his definition of strength?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Du Bois turn reassurance into a demanding definition of self-respect? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Du Bois defines self-respect as refusing to measure oneself by other people while also demanding disciplined effort. His reassurance removes the power of prejudice, and his imperatives make growth a personal responsibility.

EVIDENCE

Use one reassuring statement and one command that asks Yolande to master herself.

WATCH FOR

Do not reduce the letter to generic parental encouragement. Explain how affirmation and demand work together.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 6 · LESSON 327

Letter to His Daughter

W. E. B. Du Bois

How does Du Bois turn reassurance into a demanding definition of self-respect?

WORK

Letter to His Daughter

TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	1914 letter to Yolande Du Bois - opportunity, identity, and self-mastery
PASSAGE ID	sec-dubois-daughter-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Above all remember, dear, that you have a great opportunity.

END

Take yourself in hand and master yourself.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline language that reassures Yolande. Circle imperatives telling her what to do. Box the sentence that most clearly links opportunity to responsibility.
2. NOTICE Where does the tone move from comfort to challenge? What does Du Bois say matters more than appearance or other people's reactions? How do the commands build his definition of strength?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Du Bois turn reassurance into a demanding definition of self-respect?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.