

English 12

- **Hard Times** by Charles Dickens
- **He Chose the Nails** by Max Lucado
- **The Souls of Black Folk** by W.E.B. DuBois
- **God's Roadmap for New Beginnings: Let the Journey Begin** by Max Lucado*

There are two assignments for each book that need to be completed and brought to school on the first day. [These assignments will carry the weight of three grades:](#) homework, classwork and project.

Directions

- 1) Complete the downloadable [Major Works Data Sheet](#) for each of the assigned works.
- 2) Complete each of the essay questions assigned.
- 3) Bring data sheets and [typed essays](#) to class on the first day of school in pocket folder.

Expository Essay Assignment

Each essay is to be typed on US Letter (8.5x11 inch) paper using double-spaced paragraphs composed of 5 or more sentences (use the downloadable Expository Five Paragraph Graphic Organizer as a guide). The font should be either Times New Roman or Helvetica/Arial with a point size of either 12 or 14.

Essay question for **Hard Times**:

According to the Christian Bible Reference Site, *"It would seem that the more we give to others, the poorer we become, but just the opposite is true! Service to others brings meaning and fulfillment to our lives in a way that wealth, power, possessions and self-centered pursuits can never match."* Expound in detail whether you agree or disagree with this statement citing specific characters that are depicted in Charles Dickens' **Hard Times**.

Essay question for **He Chose the Nails**:

Below is a poem excerpt from the novel [He Chose the Nails](#): Use the poem as a guide to answer the following request. Explain the meaning and the significance of the symbols: *the bitter sponge, the cutting spear, the cross, and the spit upon Jesus' face*.

*The diadem of pain
which sliced your gentle face,
three spikes piercing flesh and wood
to hold you in your place.*

*The need for blood I understand.
Your sacrifice I embrace.
But the bitter sponge, the cutting spear,
the spit upon your face?
Did it have to be a cross?
Did not a kinder death exist
than six hours hanging between life and death,
all spurred by a betrayer's kiss?*



Essay question for **The Souls of Black Folk**:

Du Bois insists that "the right to vote," "civic equality," and "the education of youth according to ability" are essential for African American progress.

Using the summative above, choose **ONE** aspect, either *the right to vote*, *civic equality*, or *the education of youth according to ability* in order to formulate an argument for **OR** an argument against DuBois' viewpoint. Your argument must include, but not limited to, DuBois' perspective and at least three other reputable sources!

*Books are not required, but will be used throughout the school year.

