Glossary # 2

Word: Inferiority

Parts of Speech: Noun

Inferiority: the condition of being lower in status or quality than another or others

Source: Dictionary.com

Encountering of the word: Quicksand, Chapter eight, page 75

Context: “that constant feeling of humiliation and inferiority which had encompassed her in Naxos”

Analysis: Helga’s perception of her inferiority is the driving force behind her choices and actions throughout the novel. This sense of inferiority is the cause of her apprehension. We saw throughout the novel that Helga at most times did not share many ideas or qualities with the people around her. Being different can be make someone feel strange and inadvertently less than. The way in which this word relates to my research annotation of the Great Migration is that African Americans as well as Helga were escaping the south in order to find prosperity and confidence in which they were as people. They wanted to overcome this inferiority complex and wanted to recognize in themselves a sense of worth. Unfortunately she was never able to overcome this because she was never truly accepting of who she was. African Americans who migrated to the North from the South understood their history and their places in the world and sought from that starting point to go on to uplift their people.

 Inferiority in this picture is to feel smaller and subjected to the people who are bigger than you.