Glossary Entry # 1

Word: Apprehension

Parts of speech: noun

Apprehension: anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant may happen

Source: Dictionary. Com

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

Context: “Any shreds of self consciousness or apprehension which at first she may have felt vanished quickly, escaped in the keenness of her joy at seeming at last to belong somewhere”

Analysis: The way in which word may relate to the characterization of Helga Crane is that she, throughout the novel, is always in alert as to how people may perceive her. We discussed in class that she tend to run away when she becomes uncomfortable in a setting or situation rather than work through her problems. Helga’s fear stems from her dysfunctional childhood and family upbringing. She was the daughter of an Afro men and Danish mother, a pairing that was ostracized during that time period, so she constantly lived in fear of judgment. Then after, her parents separated and she went on to live with her mother’s new white family. She was bullied and neglected during that time adding to her already low self esteem and inability to form relationships with others. As we saw in Naxos and later in Denmark she is fearful that her pride, self esteem or dignity may be assaulted. The way in which this word relates to my research annotation of the Great Migration is that African Americans at the time as well as Helga were constantly in danger (in different ways) but nevertheless the fear is the same. They have come expect tragedy to strike at any given moment because on rare occasions its ceases to happen.

