

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Up from Slavery: Chapter 1 by Booker T. Washington

### Guided Notes – Lesson 2

**How do Washington's word choices illustrate his argument about the institution of slavery?**

**Objective:** *In this lesson you will learn how to determine an author's argument about a specific topic by analyzing an author's word choices.*

**Steps:**

1. Reread your selection, and notice powerful word choices that the author uses to talk about the main idea.
2. Organize those words into a T chart with one column for words with a strong connotative meaning and one with a strong denotative meaning.
3. Ask yourself: what do those word choices reveal about the author's argument about the topic?

**FOCUS PASSAGE (Page 7, Paragraph 3) :**

1. Reread your selection, and notice powerful word choices that the author uses to talk about the main idea.

I pity from the bottom of my heart any nation or body of people that is so unfortunate as to get entangled in the net of slavery. I have long since ceased to cherish any spirit of bitterness against the Southern white people on account of the enslavement of my race. No one section of our country was wholly responsible for its introduction, and, besides, it was recognized and protected for years by the General Government. Having once got its tentacles fastened on to the economic and social life of the Republic, it was no easy matter for the country to relieve itself of the institution. Then, when we rid ourselves of prejudice, or racial feeling, and look facts in the face, we must acknowledge that, notwithstanding the cruelty and moral wrong of slavery, the ten million Negroes inhabiting this country, who themselves or whose ancestors went through the school of American slavery, are in a stronger and more hopeful condition, materially, intellectually, morally, and religiously, than is true of an equal number of black people in any other portion of the globe.

2. Organize those words into a T-chart with one column for words with a strong connotative meaning and one with a strong denotative meaning.

Denotative	Connotative

3. Ask yourself: what do those word choices reveal about the author's argument about the topic?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their response to the question above.