



## The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration

By Isabel Wilkerson,  
Publisher: Random House, 2010

Keep these questions in mind as you write your essay. They are meant to draw out your own ideas about each book and its theme.

**Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns*** is a story of the experience black migrants had in moving North to improve their lives, and the challenges they faced economically and socially after escaping the codified racism of the South. As you read the book, consider why the market did not improve conditions for blacks in the South, or make them more welcome in the North.

1. How, if at all, does this book change your understanding of the American Dream? Use a character from the book to explain your answer.
2. Wilkerson shows that even with a strong family and a good education, migrants faced obstacles in the North. What were Ida Mae's biggest barriers to living a dignified life in Chicago? What would she have needed to make it more successful?
3. Robert Joseph Pershing Foster's story illustrates the realities of life in the Jim Crow South. How did he continue to experience the imbalance of social and economic freedom after he moved West?