

UNIT 4 Unification and Growth
Expanding Frontiers 1865–1910

A STEIN SCHOOL
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



*Keeping the Thing Going
While Things Are Stirring*

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Isabella Baumfree, the author of today's selection, chose the name Sojourner Truth when she was forty-six years old, claiming that God had told her to do so.

What might be the significance of the name? What is a Sojourner?

How does the term relate to Isabella's background?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.

THE SPEECH DEFINED

A speech is a public communication or expression of thought in spoken words. Its purpose is often to inform an audience about a given subject or to persuade them to a particular point of view. The ancient Greeks probably were the first to analyze oratory (public speaking) and to categorize the elements of public speaking. Because spoken language was still the primary means of communication in ancient times, public speaking was elevated to an art.



THE SPEAKER



Born to slave parents in Ulster county, New York, originally named Isabella Baumfree, Sojourner Truth served as a slave for twenty-one years, beginning at the age of nine when she was auctioned.

Truth escaped to freedom in 1827, initially adopting the name of the Van Wagener family, who protected her. A year later, when Emancipation became mandatory in New York, she successfully fought to have one of her sons, who had been sold illegally, returned to her. In doing so, she became the first African American woman to win a court case against a white man .

Truth moved to New York City and became involved in social reform. A street-corner preacher, she had a wide knowledge of the Bible. In 1843, Isabella claimed that God told her to change her name to Sojourner Truth. She became a wandering orator, launching the speaking tours that made her famous. She met many important figures of her day, including Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Sojourner Truth's style is characterized by **dialect**, or the language spoken by the people of a particular place, time, or social group. She uses the word *chil'n* for children, the word *ain't* for isn't, and the word *racket* to describe the uproar over the issue of women's rights.





LITERARY ELEMENTS

Style

Is the manner in which something is said or written, as characterized by word choice (diction), sentence structure and length, and other recurring features.

Dialect

Is a version of a language spoken by the people of a particular place, time, or social group.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 303-308 in your book, complete the following activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Style and Dialect** - Review your list of stylistic qualities. What about her style made Sojourner Truth such an effective speaker? Also review Truth's speech "Ain't I a Woman?" (see pages 307–307) for more examples of her style.
 - How does Truth's use of dialect affect her style? Look for instances in which the syntax (word order) and grammar are unconventional, indicating use of a dialect. Does Truth's use of dialect strengthen or weaken the presentation of her message?



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