**What**

**darkly dramatic diction:**

**“deadens”**

**“benumbs”**

**“uncultivated”**

**“barren”**

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**Similes:**

**“spider’s webs” and “floating bubbles”**

**How**

**Creates a hellish image devoid of life and hope**

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**Parallels job opportunities to fanciful, ephemeral nothings**

**Why**

**Illustrates for the progressive abolitionists the unproductive and unfruitful result of limiting African Americans to hard manual labor, which denies them their right to not only a quality life, but also true liberty, and certainly the pursuit of happiness through intellectual stimulation.**

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**To criticize the unfulfilling nature of the work allowed African Americans, where when one day’s or even hour’s job was complete, nothing else existed. There was no satisfaction, future, or potential for betterment to be found in servile labors such as washing windows and shining boots.**