

Discussion Questions
Physicist Activist:
Dr. Elmer Imes and the Civil Rights Case of Juliette Derricotte

1. What was life like for African Americans in the South in the 1930s?
2. What is segregation? What is the difference between *de jure* and *de facto* segregation? In addition to hospitals, what other American institutions or aspects of life were segregated?
3. What happened to Juliette Derricotte and the students from Fisk University? How did racial segregation affect the outcome of events?
4. Why did the NAACP launch an investigation of the events in Dalton, Georgia?
5. Reflect on the excerpt from Ethel Gilbert's letter. How does she compare the treatment she would have received as a white woman to that received by Juliette Derricotte and her friends?
6. Is it surprising that a physicist could also be an activist? Why or why not?