

Figurative Language

This activity accompanies “The Rising of the Storm,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4976.

Activity Title: Figurative Language

Description: The students will find the various types of figurative language the poem uses and explain how it enhances the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how figurative language enhances the poem’s meaning.

Materials:

- “The Rising of the Storm” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Chart of figurative language definitions (optional)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Explain to the students the various types of figurative language a writer can use (symbolism, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole). Next, have the students work with a partner to find all the figurative language they can in the poem, and a possible reason for why it is there. Then, have the partners pair up with another set of partners, compare their findings, and add anything they missed. Finally, have a class discussion asking the students how the meaning is enhanced through the use of figurative language.

