

Figurative Language

This activity accompanies “Longing,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4993.

Activity Title: Figurative Language

Description: The students will work with a partner to analyze the figurative language in the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will analyze, interpret, and evaluate an author’s use of figurative language in the poem (symbolism, metaphor, personification, hyperbole) and how it affects the meaning of the poem.

Materials:

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

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students some of the examples of figurative language found in the poem. Next, have the students work with a partner to analyze and interpret the figurative language in the poem. Then, have them write an evaluation of how the figurative language affects the meaning of the poem; make sure they give specific examples from the text.

