

Oral Response to Literature

This activity accompanies “To Louise,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5002.

Activity Title: Oral Response to Literature

Description: The students will work with a small group of students to perform the poem, and write a back-story for the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing and Communication

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will deliver an oral response to the poem using appropriate body language, eye contact, and gestures.

Materials:

- “To Louise” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem. Next, have the students work in a small group to develop a back-story for the poem to present (who Louise may be and why Dunbar may have written a poem about her). Along with their back-story presentation, the students will perform the poem in a creative manner (song, romantic reading, rap etc.). Finally, have the students perform their presentations in front of the class.

