

Writing about Rivals

This activity accompanies “The Rivals,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5003.

Activity Title: Writing about Rivals

Description: The students will write their own poems about one of their rivals.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem using the same theme as the Dunbar poem.

Materials:

- “The Rivals” 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 theme of the poem and the literary devices that Dunbar uses. Next, have the students think about a rival that they have met in their lifetime. Using their rival story, including a problem and resolution, have the students write their own rival poem. Finally, have the students share their poems with a partner or as a class poetry reading.

