

Poem Structure

This activity accompanies “Beyond the Years,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5011.

Activity Title: Poem Structure

Description: The students will analyze the structure of the poem with a partner, and then explain how it enhances the meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will analyze the structure of the poem, and then explain how it enhances the meaning of the poem.

Materials:

- “Beyond the Years” 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. Explain to the students the various structural features of a poem. Next, have the students work with a partner to identify and explain how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning. When the students have finished working, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

