

Word Choice

This activity accompanies “To Dan,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5317.

Activity Title: Word Choice

Description: The students will work in small groups to explain how the word choice in the poem enhances the poem’s theme.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the author’s word choice enhances the poem’s theme.

Materials:

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

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem. Then, have the students work in small groups to discuss and explain how the author’s word choice enhances the poem’s theme. When the students have finished working, have one member from each group present what their group discussed.

