

Comparing

This activity accompanies “Comparison,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5033.

Activity Title: Comparing

Description: The students will analyze the poem for comparisons and cause and effect.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Compare and Contrast and Cause and Effect

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will analyze the poem for comparisons and cause and effect.

Materials:

- “Comparison” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Analytical questions page (below)

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. Next, have the students work individually, or with a partner, to answer the analytical questions (below). Finally, have a group discussion debriefing the students’ answers.



NAME _____

DATE _____

A Closer Look at the Poem

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use textual evidence from the poem.

In the first section of the poem why does the dark gray sky seem over-bright?

In the second section of the poem why does the robin sound like the sweetest bird?

How are these two sections similar?



NAME Suggested Answer Key

DATE _____

These answers are suggestions, there are many different interpretations while analyzing poetry

A Closer Look at the Poem

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use textual evidence from the poem.

In the first section of the poem why does the dark gray sky seem over-bright?

The dark gray sky seems over-bright because the one who is looking at it has never seen a white sky.

In the second section of the poem why does the robin sound like the sweetest bird?

The robin sounds like the sweetest bird because the one who is listening to it has never heard a nightingale.

How are these two sections similar?

The two sections are similar because in both cases the observer bases his or her opinion on what he or she knows, has seen, or has listened to in the past.

