

Rhyme Scheme

This activity accompanies “Ships that Pass in the Night,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5044.

Activity Title: Rhyme Scheme

Description: The students will identify the rhyme scheme in the poem, and then write their own poem using the same rhyme scheme.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis and Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem using a specific rhyme scheme.

Materials:

- “Ships that Pass in the Night” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students how to find the rhyme scheme of a poem. Determine the specific rhyme scheme of Dunbar’s poem as a class. Then, have the students work individually to write their own poem using the same rhyme scheme as Dunbar’s poem.

