

## Word Choice

This activity accompanies “Despair,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5345.

**Activity Title:** Word Choice

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to explain how the word choice in the poem enhances its meaning.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will explain how the word choice in the poem enhances its meaning.

**Materials:**

- “Despair” 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 with a partner to write an explanation for how the word choice in the poem enhances the poem’s meaning. When the students have finished writing, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

