

Poem Structure

This activity accompanies “Circumstances Alter Cases,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5346.

Activity Title: Poem Structure

Description: The students will work in small groups to write an explanation for how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning.

Materials:

- “Circumstances Alter Cases” 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 listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link listed above). Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Then, have the students work in small groups to discuss and write an explanation for how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning. When the students have finished working, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

