Poem Meaning

This activity accompanies "The River of Ruin," from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5353.

Activity Title: Poem Meaning

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain the meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Behavioral Objective:

• The student will explain the meaning of the poem.

Materials:

- "The River of Ruin" 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. Then, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for the meaning of the poem. Have the students include textual support in their answers. When the students have finished working, have a whole group discussion reviewing their answers.



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