

## Word Choice and Vocabulary

This activity accompanies “To Her,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5354.

**Activity Title:** Word Choice and Vocabulary

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

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Vocabulary and Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

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

**Materials:**

- “To Her” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Dictionaries (or internet access to online dictionaries)

**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 identify and define any unknown words in the poem. Once the students understand all of the words in the poem, have the students write an explanation for how the word choice enhances the poem’s meaning. Finally, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

