

Punctuation

This activity accompanies “Mortality,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5100.

Activity Title: Punctuation

Description: The students will analyze how the punctuation of the poem adds to its meaning.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work with a partner to analyze how the punctuation in the poem adds to its meaning.

Materials:

- “Mortality” 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 analyze the poem’s punctuation, and write an explanation for how the punctuation enhances the poem’s meaning. When the students are finished, review their answers as a class.

