

Symbolism

This activity accompanies “A Little Christmas Basket,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5203.

Activity Title: Symbolism

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain the symbolism found in the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the symbolism found in the poem.

Materials:

- “A Little Christmas Basket” 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 above). Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Then, explain to the students how to identify symbolism in a text; give examples if necessary. Next, have the students work in small groups to write an explanation for the symbolism found in the poem. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in a class discussion.

