

Add a Tune

This activity accompanies “Song,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5209.

Activity Title: Add a Tune

Description: The students will work in small groups to practice and perform a portion of the poem to which they have added a tune or beat.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Arts: Music

Skill: Reading Comprehension and Music Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will create a tune or beat for a portion of the poem.

Materials:

- “Song” 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, divide the students into four groups, one for each stanza of the poem. In the groups, have the students practice the words in their stanza, (using the Lit2Go audio if necessary) also have them add a tune or beat to their words. After the students have had time to practice, have them perform their parts of the song in the order in which they appear in the poem.

