

## Main Idea

This activity accompanies “Mare Rubrum,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5118.

**Activity Title:** Main Idea

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to explain the main idea and the author’s purpose of the poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Main Idea and Author’s Purpose

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will work with a partner to explain the main idea of the poem and the author’s purpose for writing it.

**Materials:**

- “Mare Rubrum” 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 literary elements found in the poem. Then, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for the main idea and author’s purpose of the poem. When the students are finish, have them discuss their findings with the class.

