

Symbolism

This activity accompanies “The Wraith,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5220.

Activity Title: Symbolism

Description: The students will work with a partner to write an explanation for what they think the symbolism in the poem means.

Subject: Reading and Language/Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will analyze and explain the symbolism in the poem.

Materials:

- “The Wraith” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Dictionaries (if necessary)

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, explain to the students how to analyze and explain symbolism in a text. Next, have the students work with a partner to analyze the poem for symbolism, and write an explanation for what they think it means. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in small groups.

