

## Personal Distinctions

This activity accompanies “Distinction,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5126.

**Activity Title:** Personal Distinctions

**Description:** The students will create their own distinction poem, using the same structure as Dunbar does in his poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Themes and Structure

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will create his or her own distinction poem, using the same structure as Dunbar’s poem.

**Materials:**

- “Distinction” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Distinction poem template (below)

**Procedures:**

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea and theme of the poem. Then have the students create their own poems using the same structure as Dunbar’s poem (template below). When the students are finished writing, have them share their poems in small groups.



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