

Who Was Prometheus?

This activity accompanies “Prometheus,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5133.

Activity Title: Who Was Prometheus?

Description: The students will research the Greek mythology behind Prometheus’ story. Then, they will discuss how their research helped them to better understand the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Research Skills and Reading Comprehension

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work in a small group to research the Greek mythology behind Prometheus’ story. Then, he or she will discuss how the research helped him or her to better understand the poem.

Materials:

- “Misapprehension” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information on Prometheus available at: <http://messagenet.com/myths/bios/promethe.html>, <http://www.pantheon.org/articles/p/prometheus.html> and <http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/grecoromanmyth1/a/prometheus.htm>

Procedures:

Before reading the poem, have the students work in small groups to research who Prometheus was in Greek mythology. When the students are finished, have a class discussion about what they found out. Then, read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students how the information they researched helped them to better understand the poem. Also, discuss with the students the main idea of the poem and any other literary features that enhance the poem’s meaning.

