

## Interpreting Poetry

This activity accompanies “Death,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5286.

**Activity Title:** Interpreting Poetry

**Description:** The students will develop an interpretation of the poem, and justify their interpretation with contextual evidence.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will develop an interpretation of the poem, and justify his or her interpretation with contextual evidence.

**Materials:**

- “Death” 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. Then, have the students work individually to write an interpretation of the poem, and justifications for their interpretations using contextual evidence. When the students have finished working, have them meet in small groups to discuss their interpretations of the poem.

