

Author's Purpose

This activity accompanies chapter 11 from *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by James Weldon Johnson, record number 1761.

Activity Title: Author's Purpose

Description: The students will write a commentary about why the author wrote this book.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis and Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a commentary about why the author wrote this book.

Materials:

- *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* chapter 11, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil

Procedures:

Read the chapter with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the summary of the book and how it coincides with the history and ideals of the time period in which it was written. Next, have the students write a commentary about why they believe the author has written this book; have them include the topics discussed in the book and the main character's actions throughout the book. Encourage the students to include their knowledge about the Reconstruction period, and textual support. When the students have finished writing, have them meet in small groups to discuss their commentaries.