

Language Analysis

This activity accompanies “Accountability,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4972.

Activity Title: Language Analysis

Description: The students will analyze the language and structure (meter, rhyme scheme) in the poem, and then write their own poem using similar language and structure.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis and Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will analyze the language and structure (meter, rhyme scheme etc.) in the poem to create their own poem using similar language and structure.

Materials:

- “Accountability” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the language use and structure of the poem. Ask the students why they think Dunbar uses this language and structure in his poem. Next, have the students work with a partner or small group to write their own poem using similar language and structure on a topic of their choice.

