

Theme Reflects the Times

This activity accompanies “A Thanksgiving Poem,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5375.

Activity Title: Theme Reflects the Times

Description: The students will work in a small group to explain how the theme of the poem reflects the time period in which the poem was written.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the theme of the poem reflects the time period in which the poem was written.

Materials:

- “A Thanksgiving Poem” 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. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem. Also, discuss with the students the time period in which the poem was written. Next, have the students work with a small group to discuss and write an explanation for how the theme of the poem reflects the time period in which it was written. When the students have finished working, have a member from each group present their group’s discussion to the whole class.

