

Meter and Rhyme Scheme

This activity accompanies “A Prayer,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4979.

Activity Title: Meter and Rhyme Scheme

Description: The students will work in small groups to explain how the meaning of the poem is enhanced through the structure of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how meaning is enhanced through the structure of the poem (meter, rhyme scheme etc.).

Materials:

- “A Prayer” 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. Explain to the students how to determine the meter and rhyme scheme of a poem. Next, have the students work in small groups to determine the meter and rhyme scheme of the poem. The groups should also write a short explanation about how the meaning of the poem is enhanced through the meter and rhyme scheme. Finally, have a class discussion about the various ways the meaning is enhanced through the use of structure in the poem.

