

Figurative and Descriptive Language

This activity accompanies “On the Death of W.C.,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5379.

Activity Title: Figurative and Descriptive Language

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain how the figurative and descriptive language of the poem enhances the poem’s meaning.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the figurative and descriptive language of the poem enhances the poem’s meaning.

Materials:

- “On the Death of W.C.” 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. Then, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for how the figurative and descriptive language of the poem enhances the poem’s meaning. When the students have finished working, have them review their answers in small groups.

