

Poem Theme

This activity accompanies “Worn Out,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5389.

Activity Title: Poem Theme

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain the theme of the poem, and then give textual support in their explanation.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the theme of the poem, and then give textual support for their explanation.

Materials:

- “Worn Out” 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 the theme of the poem, using textual support in their answers. When the students have finished writing, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

