

Comparing Poems

This activity accompanies “The Sand-Man,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5290.

Activity Title: Comparing Poems

Description: The students will write a poem about the Sandman. Then, the students will compare their poem’s theme, tone, and word choice with the author’s poem “The Sand-Man.”

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing and Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem about the Sandman, and then they will compare his or her poem’s theme, tone, and word choice with the author’s poem.

Materials:

- “The Sand-Man” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil

Procedures:

Explain to the students who the Sandman is, if they are not already familiar. Then, have the students write a poem about their ideas of the Sandman. When the students have finished writing, read the Dunbar 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 fill in the Venn diagram below, comparing and contrasting their poem’s theme, tone, and word choice with the author’s poem.



NAME _____

DATE _____

Venn Diagram

My Poem of the Sandman

Dunbar's poem of "The Sand-Man"

