

Change of Heart

This activity accompanies “Johnny Speaks,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5291.

Activity Title: Change of Heart

Description: The students will write a short story about a time when they changed their mind about something, using persuasive writing skills.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Persuasive Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a short persuasive story.

Materials:

- “Johnny Speaks” 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 write a persuasive story about a time in which they changed their mind about something or someone. Have the students include their original opinion, what made them change their mind, and how they feel today. When the students have finished writing, have them share their stories in small groups.

