

Graphic Elements

This activity accompanies “Premonition,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4997.

Activity Title: Graphic Elements

Description: The students will work with a partner to analyze the graphic elements of the poem and how they affect the meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how meaning is enhanced through the graphic elements of the poem.

Materials:

- “Premonition” 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. Discuss with the students what the graphic elements of a poem are (line length, punctuation, word position). Next, have the students work with a partner to analyze and list the graphic elements of the poem and explain how they enhance the meaning. Finally, have the students review their answers in a whole group discussion.

