

In Retrospect

This activity accompanies “Retrospection,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4998.

Activity Title: In Retrospect

Description: The students will write their own retrospection poem using a similar structure as Dunbar.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will analyze the poem’s theme and structure and then write his or her own poem with a similar theme and structure

Materials:

- “Retrospection” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Poem template (below)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the theme and structure of the poem (meter and rhyme scheme). Next, have the students use the poem template, or something similar, to write their own poem with a retrospection theme.



Poem Template:

When you and I were young,

When you are I were young, my boy,

When you and I were young.

