

## What's the Theme?

This activity accompanies “Unexpressed,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4999.

**Activity Title:** What's the Theme?

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to determine the theme of the poem giving textual support.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will analyze the way the theme of the poem represents a view or comment on life, providing textual evidence for the identified theme.

**Materials:**

- “Unexpressed” 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. Have the students work with a partner to explain the theme of the poem, and how it represents a view or comment on life. Make sure the students provide textual evidence for their theme. Next, discuss with the students, in a group setting, the themes they came up with, including their textual support.

