

## Writing in African-American Dialect

This activity accompanies “Song of Summer,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5000.

**Activity Title:** Writing in African-American Dialect

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to write a poem about a season using African-American dialect.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis and Writing

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will be able to analyze the African-American dialect in the poem, and then write his or her own season themed poem using African-American dialect.

**Materials:**

- “Song of Summer” 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 the African-American dialect in the poem, and the theme of the poem. Next, have the students work in pairs or small groups to write their own seasonally themed poem writing in African-American dialect, using what they know from the Dunbar poem. Finally, have the students share their poems with another group or in a class poetry reading.

