

Main Idea

This activity accompanies “Ione,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5006.

Activity Title: Main Idea

Description: The students will work on sections of the poem, with a partner, to interpret the main idea.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will interpret the main idea of the poem and give textual support.

Materials:

- “Ione” 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 literary features of the poem. Next, pair each student with a partner. Number off the partners 1, 2 or 3. Have the ones work on the first section of the poem, the twos the second section and the threes the third section. Have the students analyze and interpret their section of the poem for main idea, including textual support for details. Finally, have the ones all meet together, the twos meet together and the threes meet together to share the main ideas that they decided on, and their textual support.

