

The Poem's Theme

This activity accompanies “The Plantation Child’s Lullaby,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5304.

Activity Title: The Poem’s Theme

Description: The students will explain how the author’s word choice enhances the theme of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the author’s word choice enhances the theme of the poem.

Materials:

- “The Plantation Child’s Lullaby” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link listed above). Then, discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Next, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for how the author’s word choice enhances the theme of the poem. When the students are finished working, have them review their answers in a whole class discussion.

