

Grievance Writing

This activity accompanies “Deacon Jones’ Grievance,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5008.

Activity Title: Grievance Writing

Description: The students will write a poem about a grievance they have using the same rhyme scheme as the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis and Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem about a grievance they have using the same rhyme scheme as the poem.

Materials:

- “Deacon Jones’ Grievance” 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 main idea of the poem, and how Dunbar used a creative outlet for his complaint. Also, discuss the rhyme scheme presented in the poem. Next, have the students write their own poem about a grievance they have, using the same rhyme scheme that Dunbar uses. Finally, have the students share their poem with a partner.

