

Performing the Ballad

This activity accompanies “A Border Ballad,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5018.

Activity Title: Performing the Ballad

Description: The students will work in small groups to create a performance of a portion of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Communication

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work in a small group to create a performance of a portion of the poem.

Materials:

- “A Border Ballad” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Construction paper, markers, and other resources the students may wish to use to create props.

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem and a possible reason for why Dunbar may have written it. Next, split the students into three groups (one for each section of the poem). Have each group create a presentation for their portion of the ballad. For example, they can sing the ballad, act it out, use props, etc. Next, have the groups perform the ballad, in the order of the poem.

