

## What Makes you Blue?

This activity accompanies “Blue,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5330.

**Activity Title:** What Makes you Blue?

**Description:** The students will write a poem about something that makes them blue.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Writing

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will write a poem using a similar theme as the author.

**Materials:**

- “Blue” 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). Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Also, discuss with the students the theme of the poem; how the author feels blue when it’s raining. Next, have the students work individually to write a poem about what makes them blue. Finally, discuss with the students how it is normal not to be happy all of the time, and have some of the students share their poems with the class.

