

Story behind the Song

This activity accompanies “A Corn-Song,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5034.

Activity Title: Story behind the Song

Description: The students will work in small groups to brainstorm why this song was written. Then the students will write a story about how this song came to be.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Music

Skill: Writing, Author’s Purpose, and Applications of Music

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work in small groups to write a story about how this song came to be.

Materials:

- “A Corn-Song” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the time period in which this poem was written. Next, have the students work in small groups to brainstorm ideas for why this song was written. Then, have the students write a short story explaining how this song came to be. Finally, have the groups share their stories with another group.

