

Character Sculptors

This activity accompanies “Disappointed,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5036.

Activity Title: Character Sculptors

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

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Theatre

Skill: Communication, and Theatre Skills and Techniques

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work in small groups to create a presentation of the poem.

Materials:

- “Disappointed” 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 main idea of the poem. Next, split the students into groups of five people. Then, have the students rehearse their presentations (guidelines below). Finally, let each group perform their presentation of the poem.

Character Sculptures:

In the small groups, two of the students will become “clay,” and two will be “sculptors.” The last student will read the poem while the “sculptors” change the body positions and facial expressions of the “clay” students, as a reaction to what is going on in the poem. One “clay” student will be the old man and the other will be the storm. Each “clay” student will have a “sculptor” who changes their positions to match the story told in the poem.

