

## Historical Significance

This activity accompanies “Hymn,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5049.

**Activity Title:** Historical Significance

**Description:** The students will explore how the theme of the poem relates to the time period in which it was written.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will work with a partner to determine the theme of the poem, and how the theme relates to the time period in which the poem was written.

**Materials:**

- “Hymn” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- History books and/or internet access

**Procedures:**

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the theme of the poem, and the time period in which this poem was written. Next, have the students work with a partner to research the major historical events of the time period. After researching, have the students write an explanation for how the theme of the poem relates to the time period in which it was written.

