

Author's Purpose

This activity accompanies "The Deserted Plantation," from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5051.

Activity Title: Author's Purpose

Description: The students will discuss the author's purpose for writing this poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Author's Purpose

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will discuss the author's purpose for writing this poem.

Materials:

- "The Deserted Plantation" poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>

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 discuss the time period in which this poem was written. Next, have the class split into two groups, and have each group discuss the reasons why Dunbar wrote this poem. Then, have the two groups elect a person to speak for the group, and explain why they think Dunbar wrote this poem. Finally, open up the discussion to the rest of the class.

