

Theme

This activity accompanies “Night,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5350.

Activity Title: Theme

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain how the theme of the poem reflects the time period in which it was written.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the theme of the poem reflects the time period in which it was written.

Materials:

- “Night” 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 read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem, and also the time period in which the poem was written. Next, have the students work with a partner to explain how the theme of the poem reflects the time period in which it was written. When the students have finished working, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

