

Poem Structure

This activity accompanies “At Loafing-Holt,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5351.

Activity Title: Poem Structure

Description: The students will explain how the structure of the poem enhances the poem’s meaning.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the structure of the poem enhances the poem’s meaning.

Materials:

- “At Loafing-Holt” 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. Then, have the students work individually to write an explanation for how the structure of the poem enhances the poem’s meaning. When the students have finished working, have them share what they wrote with a partner. Finally, have some of the partners share their answers with the whole class.

