

Masked Meaning

This activity accompanies “We Wear the Mask,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5055.

Activity Title: Masked Meaning

Description: The students will explain the meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Visual Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis and Art

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will use the context clues from the poem to determine the meaning of the metaphor.

Materials:

- “We Wear the Mask” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Metaphor sheet (below)
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the metaphor of the poem. Next, have the students complete the metaphor sheet (below).



NAME _____

DATE _____

We Wear the Mask

1. What does the mask in the poem represent? _____

How do you know? (Give textual support) _____

2. Sometimes we all wear a mask. In the space below, draw a picture of a mask you have worn. Describe the situation in which you wore it, and the features of your mask.

