

## Poem Meaning

This activity accompanies “The River of Ruin,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5353.

**Activity Title:** Poem Meaning

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to explain the meaning of the poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Reading Comprehension

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will explain the meaning of the poem.

**Materials:**

- “The River of Ruin” 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. Then, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for the meaning of the poem. Have the students include textual support in their answers. When the students have finished working, have a whole group discussion reviewing their answers.

