

Add a Stanza

This activity accompanies “The Masters,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5358.

Activity Title: Add a Stanza

Description: The students will work in small groups to write an additional stanza for the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing and Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write an additional stanza for the poem.

Materials:

- “The Masters” 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, divide the students into small groups. Have each group work together to write an additional stanza for the poem; have them include questions as the author did in his first and third stanzas. Next, have the groups swap their stanzas with another group, and then have the groups write answers to the other groups’ stanzas. Finally, have each group present their original stanza, and the final stanza that answers their questions to the class.

