

Paradoxes

This activity accompanies “The Paradox,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5075.

Activity Title: Paradoxes

Description: The students will explore and explain the birthday paradox.

Subject: Math

Skill: Probability

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the birthday paradox using probability.

Materials:

- “The Paradox” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Graphing calculator
- Internet access to the birthday paradox problem instructions and explanation: <http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?ID=L299>

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students what a paradox is, and where paradoxes are found in the poem. Next, lead the students through the link above, explaining the birthday paradox and how probability explains it.

