

A Dance and Song

This activity accompanies “A Sailor’s Song,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5080.

Activity Title: A Dance and Song

Description: The students will work in small groups to create a dance/skit to accompany part of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Dance

Skill: Reading Comprehension and Applications of Dance

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work with a small group to create a dance/skit to accompany part of the poem.

Materials:

- “A Sailor’s Song” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Construction paper
- 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 main idea of the poem. Then, divide the students into four groups, one for each stanza of the poem. Next, explain to the students that they are to create a dance/skit for their stanza of the poem. Allow them to create props out of construction paper and any other supplies on hand. When the students are finished, have them perform their stanza, in the order in which they appear in the poem.

