

Historical Significance

This activity accompanies “The Right to Die,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5084.

Activity Title: Historical Significance

Description: The students will compare Dunbar’s view of death to the views of death in our society today.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Compare and Contrast

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will compare Dunbar’s view of death to the view of death in our society today.

Materials:

- “The Right to Die” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Venn diagram (below)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the theme of the poem. Then, have the students work with a partner to complete the Venn diagram (below), comparing Dunbar’s view of death to our society’s view of death today.



Name _____

Date _____

Venn Diagram

Dunbar's View

Society's View
Today

