

What's he Thinking?

This activity accompanies “When the Old Man Smokes,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5086.

Activity Title: What's he Thinking?

Description: The students will explain why the old man has tears running down his face when he smokes.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain why the old man has tears running down his face when he smokes, by using clues from the poem.

Materials:

- “When the Old Man Smokes” 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, have the students work individually to write down reasons why the old man has tears running down his face. Have the students give textual support from the poem, and also have the students give a reason why they think the old man is never asked about his tears.

