

## Cooperative Analysis

This activity accompanies “A Bridal Measure,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5089.

**Activity Title:** Cooperative Analysis

**Description:** The students will work in small groups to determine the meaning of a stanza in the poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will work with a small group to determine the meaning of a stanza in the poem.

**Materials:**

- “A Bridal Measure” 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 seven groups, one for each stanza. Have the groups analyze their stanza’s meaning, and how it ties to the rest of the poem. When the groups are finished discussing, have the students participate in a class discussion allowing each group to explain their stanza, starting with the first stanza and ending with the seventh stanza.

