

Acting Out

This activity accompanies “The Barrier,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5093.

Activity Title: Acting Out

Description: The students will work in small groups to create a dramatic storytelling of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Theatre Arts

Skill: Reading Comprehension and Theatre Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work with a small group to create a dramatic storytelling of the poem.

Materials:

- “The Barrier” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Construction paper
- Sticks (to make props)
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, 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 class into three groups. Have the groups create props and a skit to dramatically read the poem in a presentation in front of the class. Once the students have finished putting together their skits, have each group present.

