

## Main Idea

This activity accompanies “The Turning of the Babies in the Bed,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5198.

**Activity Title:** Main Idea

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to identify, and explain the main idea of the poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Main Idea

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will explain the main idea of the poem.

**Materials:**

- “The Turning of the Babies in the Bed” 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 listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link above). Discuss with the students the dialect of the poem. Then, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for the main idea of the poem, using textual support. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote with another set of partners.

