

## Main Idea and Climax

This activity accompanies “The Valse,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5204.

**Activity Title:** Main Idea and Climax

**Description:** The students will explain the main idea of the poem, and then identify the climax in the poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Main Idea and Climax

**Behavioral Objective:**

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

**Materials:**

- “The Valse” 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 main idea of the poem. Then, explain to the students how to identify the climax in a text. Next, have the students work individually to identify the climax in the poem. When the students have finished working, have them share what they wrote in a class discussion.

