

What We Know

This activity accompanies “The Gourd,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5113.

Activity Title: What We Know

Description: The students will use a KWL to help them interpret the meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will use a KWL to interpret the meaning of the poem

Materials:

- “The Gourd” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- KWL template (below)
- Dictionaries
- Internet access (if possible)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Have the students fill in the first section of the KWL (the ‘what I know’ column) about the main idea and meaning of the poem. Next, have the students fill in the second section of the KWL (the ‘what I want to know’ column). Then, have the students use a dictionary or the internet to try and answer their questions in the second column. After a couple of minutes have the students work in small groups to try and further answer their questions. Then, have a class discussion about the students first two columns of the KWL. Finally, have the students fill in the last column of the KWL (the ‘what I learned’ column).

NAME _____

DATE _____

KWL for "The Gourd"

K: What I Know	W: What I Want to Know	L: What I Learned

