

Symbolism

This activity accompanies “Inspiration,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5212.

Activity Title: Symbolism

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain the symbolism found in the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will identify and explain symbolism in the poem.

Materials:

- “Inspiration” 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. Next, explain to the students how to identify and explain symbolism in a poem. Then, have the students work with a partner to identify and write an explanation for the symbolism they found in the poem. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in a class discussion.

