

Structure

This activity accompanies “Silence,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5221.

Activity Title: Structure

Description: The students will explain how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning.

Subject: Reading and Language/Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning.

Materials:

- “Silence” 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. Then, have the students work in small groups to write an explanation for how the structure of the poem enhances its meaning. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in a class discussion.

