

## Word Choice and Structure

This activity accompanies “To a Captious Critic,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5226.

**Activity Title:** Word Choice and Structure

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to explain how the word choice and structure of the poem enhances its meaning.

**Subject:** Reading and Language/Arts

**Skill:** Literary Analysis

**Behavioral Objective:**

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

**Materials:**

- “To a Captious Critic” 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 with a partner to analyze the poem to explain how the word choice and structure of the poem enhances its meaning. When the students are finished working, have them meet with another set of partners to discuss their answers.

