

Sonnets

This activity accompanies “Sonnet,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5128.

Activity Title: Sonnets

Description: The students will explain the characteristics of a sonnet.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Sonnet Structure

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the characteristics of a sonnet.

Materials:

- “Sonnet” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information about sonnets available at: http://readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=830

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea and title of the poem. Then explain to the students what a sonnet is, and how it differs from other poetry (sonnet information website link listed above). Then, have the students work in small groups to create their own sonnet, using what they learned about the structure and characteristics of a sonnet. When the students are finished writing, have the groups trade sonnets and analyze them to ensure they include the necessary characteristics and structure a sonnet should have.

