

Titles Enhance Meaning

This activity accompanies “Vagrants,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5137.

Activity Title: Titles Enhance Meaning

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

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Behavioral Objective:

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

Materials:

- “Vagrants” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Dictionaries

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Then, have the students use a dictionary, if necessary, to look up any of the words in the poem they do not know, or that may have alternative meanings. Next, discuss with the students the main idea of the poem. Also, discuss with the students how clarifying meanings of unknown words can help lead to a better comprehension. Finally, have the students write an explanation for how the title of the poem enhances its meaning.

