

Tone

This activity accompanies “A Winter’s Day,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5138.

Activity Title: Tone

Description: The students will identify the tone of the poem, and explain how it is affected by the author’s word choice.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will identify the tone of the poem, and explain how it is affected by the author’s word choice.

Materials:

- “A Winter’s Day” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Dictionaries (if necessary)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students what the tone of a poem is, and how it can be affected by word choice and other literary devices. Next, have the students work with a partner to explain what the tone of the poem is, and the word choice Dunbar uses to help build that tone. Allow the students to use dictionaries as needed. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote with the class.

