

Give it a Tune

This activity accompanies “The Voice of the Banjo,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5162.

Activity Title: Give it a Tune

Description: The students will work in groups to create a tune for a stanza in the poem, and then they will perform their stanza as a group.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Music

Skill: Music Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work with a group to create a tune for one of the stanzas in the poem, and then the student’s group will perform the stanza.

Materials:

- “The Voice of the Banjo” 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, divide the class into five groups; one group for each of the lyric stanzas. Next, have the students create a tune or beat to go along with their stanza. When the students are finished, have them perform as a group in front of the class.

