

## A Ballade

This activity accompanies “Ballade,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5251.

**Activity Title:** A Ballade

**Description:** The students will write a ballade.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Writing

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will write a ballade.

**Materials:**

- “Ballade” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information on ballades available at: <http://www.baymoon.com/~ariadne/form/ballade.htm>

**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, explain to the students the characteristics of a ballade (information available at the website link listed above). Next, have the students use what they have learned about ballades to write their own. When the students have finished writing, have them share their ballades in small groups.

