

Main Idea

This activity accompanies “The News,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5160.

Activity Title: Main Idea

Description: The students will use what they know about the time period in which the poem was written, to explain the main idea of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Social Studies

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will use what they know about the time period in which the poem was written, to explain the main idea of the poem.

Materials:

- “The News” 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 time period in which the poem was written. Then, have the students work individually to use what they know, and what is in the poem, to write the main idea of the poem. Have the students include evidence from the text, and from what they know about the time period, in their explanation. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in a class discussion.

