

The Beliefs of the Poet

This activity accompanies “My Sort O’ Man,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5165.

Activity Title: The Beliefs of the Poet

Description: The students will explain the beliefs that Dunbar has about different types of people.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the beliefs that Dunbar has about different types of people.

Materials:

- “My Sort O’ Man” 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 and dialect of the poem. Then, have the students work in small groups to write an explanation for the beliefs Dunbar has about various types of people, using textual evidence from the poem. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote with the class.

