

Main Idea

This activity accompanies “Possum,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5166.

Activity Title: Main Idea

Description: The students will explain the main idea using supporting details from the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Main Idea and Supporting Details

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the main idea using supporting details from the poem.

Materials:

- “Possum” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Main Idea and Supporting Details template (below)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the dialect in the poem. Then, have the students work in small groups to explain the main idea using supporting details from the poem (template below). When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote with the class.



NAME _____

DATE _____

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Directions: In the hexagon, write the main idea of the poem. Then, in each triangle write details from the poem that support the main idea.

