

The Title

This activity accompanies “A Death Song,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5168.

Activity Title: The Title

Description: The students will explain how the title enhances the meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the title enhances the meaning of the poem.

Materials:

- “A Death Song” 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, with the title of the poem covered up. Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect in the poem. Then, read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own, with the title of the poem revealed. Next, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for how the title of the poem helps to enhance its meaning. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in a whole class discussion.

