

The Theme

This activity accompanies “A Back-Log Song,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5169.

Activity Title: The Theme

Description: The students will work with a partner to identify the theme of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the theme of the poem.

Materials:

- “A Back-Log 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. Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Also, discuss with the students how to find the theme of a text. Next, have the students work with a partner to write the theme of the poem. When they are finished, have the partners share what they wrote with another set of partners.

