

The Title

This activity accompanies “Dirge for a Soldier,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5243.

Activity Title: The Title

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain how the title enhances the tone and meaning of the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

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

Materials:

- “Dirge for a Soldier” 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 of the poem. Then, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation for how the title of the poem enhances its tone and meaning. Allow the students to use a dictionary, if necessary. When the students are finished, have them discuss what they wrote in a whole class discussion.

