

Reflect the Times

This activity accompanies “Noon,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5284.

Activity Title: Reflect the Times

Description: The students will work with a partner to explain how the poem reflects the time period in which it was written.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will work with a partner to explain how the ideas, values, and themes of the poem reflect the time period in which it was written.

Materials:

- “Noon” 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 listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link listed above). Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem, and the time period in which the poem was written. Then, have the students work with a partner to discuss how the ideas, values, and themes of the poem reflect the time period in which it was written. Allow the students to research the Civil War time period, if necessary. When the students have finished, have them share what they discussed in a whole class discussion.

