

Poem's Meaning

This activity accompanies "At the Tavern," from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5285.

Activity Title: Poem's Meaning

Description: The students will work in small groups to discuss the meaning of the poem, and how the values of the poem reflect the values of the historical period in which it was written.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the meaning of the poem, and how the poem's values reflect the historical period in which it was written.

Materials:

- "At the Tavern" 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, and the historical period in which the poem was written. Then, have the students work in small groups to discuss the poem's meaning and how the values of the poem reflect the historical period in which it was written. When the students have finished, have them share what they discussed in a whole class discussion.

