

Punctuation

This activity accompanies “Night, Dim Night,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5287.

Activity Title: Punctuation

Description: The students will explain how the punctuation in the poem enhances the poem’s meaning.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the meaning of the poem is enhanced through the author’s use of punctuation.

Materials:

- “Night, Dim Night” 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 meaning of the poem is enhanced through the author’s use of punctuation. When the students are finished writing, have a class discussion reviewing their explanations.

