

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Laurence Dunbar

*Read "Douglass" and "We Wear the Mask" a few times, until you feel you have a fair understanding of the poems. Then, answer the following questions.*

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173467> --"We Wear the Mask"

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/douglass/> --"Douglass"

1. Dunbar was an African American writer, born to formerly \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  2. Frederick Douglass escaped from \_\_\_\_\_ to become an abolitionist.
- Douglass died when Dunbar was 23 years old.

**"Douglass"**

3. Write out the rhyme scheme of "Douglass."

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 8.  |
| 2. | 9.  |
| 3. | 10. |
| 4. | 11. |
| 5. | 12. |
| 6. | 13. |
| 7. | 14. |

4. According to the speaker in "Douglass," how does the present time compare to Douglass's time?

5. What does the speaker seem to want from Douglass? Use evidence from the poem in your response.

6. This poem is a sonnet. A sonnet is a 14-line poem with 5 stresses per line. The first stanza presents a situation, question, or idea, and the second stanza provides a resolution, an answer, or a comment. What is the situation and resolution of Dunbar's sonnet?

**"We Wear the Mask"**

1. Write out the rhyme scheme of "We Wear the Mask."

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

2. How is the meaning or emphasis of the word "mask" affected by the rhyme scheme?

3. What facial expressions does the mask wear? Give evidence from the poem.

4. Who wears the mask, and why must it be worn?

5. Name a person (either a specific individual or an occupation) who has reason to be afraid but hides behind a "mask" of confidence.