

NAME: _____

TAKE-HOME

DATE: _____

5. “Two Songs”

by Paul Laurence Dunbar

A bee that was searching for sweets one day
Through the gate of a rose garden happened to stray.
In the heart of a rose he hid away,
And forgot in his bliss the light of day,
As sipping his honey he buzzed in song;
Though day was waning, he lingered long,
For the rose was sweet, so sweet.

A robin sits pluming his ruddy breast,
And a madrigal sings to his love in her nest:
“Oh, the skies they are blue, the fields are green,
And the birds in your nest will soon be seen!”
She hangs on his words with a thrill of love,
And chirps to him as he sits above
For the song is sweet, so sweet.

A maiden was out on a summer’s day
With the winds and the waves and the flowers at play;
And she met with a youth of gentle air,
With the light of the sunshine on his hair.
Together they wandered the flowers among;
They loved, and loving they lingered long,
For to love is sweet, so sweet.

Bird of my lady's bower,
Sing her a song;
Tell her that every hour,
All the day long,
Thoughts of her come to me,
Filling my brain
With the warm ecstasy
Of love's refrain.

Little bird! happy bird!
Being so near,
Where e'en her slightest word
Thou mayest hear,
Seeing her glancing eyes,
Sheen of her hair,
Thou art in paradise,—
Would I were there.

I am so far away,
Thou art so near;
Plead with her, birdling gay,
Plead with my dear.
Rich be thy recompense,
Fine be thy fee,
If through thine eloquence
She hearken me.

Word Count: 277

NAME: _____

QUESTIONS

DATE: _____

Comprehension Questions

“Two Songs”

Assess each student’s comprehension of the selection by asking him or her to respond orally to the following questions one on one with you:

1. **Literal** What three things are so sweet?
 - » honey in the rose, the robin’s song, to love
2. **Inferential** Why did the bee stay in the rose after sundown?
 - » He was so happy drinking the honey, and it tasted so sweet, that he forgot about what time it was.
3. **Evaluative** Who is the second part of the poem for? How do you know?
 - » A lady that someone loves; the person tells the bird to sing the lady a song so the lady knows the person thinks of her all day and wishes he or she could be near her instead of the bird being near her.