

Summer in the South

By Paul Laurence Dunbar

The oriole sings in the greening grove
As if he were half-way waiting,
The rosebuds peep from their hoods of green,
Timid and hesitating.

The rain comes down in a torrent sweep
And the nights smell warm and piney,
The garden thrives, but the tender shoots
Are yellow-green and tiny.

Then a flash of sun on a waiting hill,
Streams laugh that erst were quiet,
The sky smiles down with a dazzling blue
And the woods run mad with riot.

CCSSR5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

Infer Meaning

1. What are five very important words in the poem?
2. What is the theme or main idea of the poem?
3. What lines in the poem make that idea clear?

Analyze Techniques

What techniques did the poet use?

For each technique, tell the poet's purpose—why the poet used that technique.

Develop and Image

On another page draw a picture that shows the poet's idea.