

He Had His Dream

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

He had his dream, and all through life,
Worked up to it through toil and strife.
Afloat fore'er before his eyes,
It colored for him all his skies:
The storm-cloud dark
Above his bark,
The calm and listless vault of blue
Took on its hopeful hue,
It tintured every passing beam--
He had his dream.

He labored hard and failed at last,
His sails too weak to bear the blast,
The raging tempests tore away
And sent his beating bark astray.
But what cared he
For wind or sea!
He said, "The tempest will be short,
My bark will come to port."
He saw through every cloud a gleam--
He had his dream.

El Tenía su Sueño

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

Translation by Arturo Romero

El tenía su sueño, y a lo largo de su vida,
Trabajó con esmero y superando caída.
A flote para siempre ante su vista,
Esto iluminó todos sus días:
La nube de tormenta sombría
Sobre su barca.
La calma y el oscuro sepulcro del azul
Tomaron su esperanza entintada,
Colorearon cada rayo pasajero,
El tenía su sueño.

El laboró con empeño y al final falló,
Sus velas débiles sucumbieron al estallo,
Las violentas tormentas destrozaron
Y mandaron su abatida barca a lo extraño.
Pero que le podía angustiar
¡Pór viento y mar!
El dijo, "La tempestad será corta,
Mi barca llegará a la costa."
El vio a travez de cada nube un destello --
El tenía su sueño.

Poem Reader

1. Most poets use words to mean more than just their literal meaning. Find a line in the poem in which the poet uses words to mean more than the literal definition. State what the words mean literally in your own words. Then tell what they mean in this poem.
2. What is the main idea of the poem?
3. What techniques did the poet use to get the idea across?
4. How does the poet feel about the topic of the poem?