

*"The underdog does not stop to philosophize about his position."*

**Paul Laurence Dunbar** (1872-1906)

*Taken from The Fanatics; poet,  
novelist, and playwright*



## PENDULUM SWINGS

Pendulum swings have been known  
To end in misdirects  
Too far to the right, too far to the left  
Swerve and overcorrect  
Mother Africa desired to protect  
Her indentured and her lost  
Enslaved for mandated purposes  
Regardless of lives cost  
Emancipation and Reconstruction  
Rolled back by swings of Jim Crow  
Crow-ism and segregation jostled by  
Harlem Renaissance and more  
Music, words and mediums of art  
Swung the pendulum to integration  
Color, creed, gender brought together  
Regardless of situations  
Pendulum swings have been known  
To end in misdirects  
Too far to the right, too far to the left  
Swerve and overcorrect