

# WE WEAR THE MASK

## PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

Quick write reflection:

1. What masks do you wear in your daily life?
2. Do you have a choice if you wear a mask?
3. What would happen if you chose to shed some of your masks and show your real self?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDwgnWE6jW8>

## We Wear the Mask

BY PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

We wear the mask that grins and lies,  
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—  
This debt we pay to human guile;  
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,  
And mouth with myriad subtleties.

Why should the world be over-wise,  
In counting all our tears and sighs?  
Nay, let them only see us, while  
    We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries  
To thee from tortured souls arise.  
We sing, but oh the clay is vile  
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;  
But let the world dream otherwise,  
    We wear the mask!