

We Wear the Mask
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 overwise, hi
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!

What are some masks that oppressed groups use? What is the function of such a mask?
How can masks be used as a form of resistance?

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