

Our Favorite Places

This activity accompanies “The Old Apple Tree,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 4978.

Activity Title: Our Favorite Places

Description: The students will write a poem about their favorite place and publish it in a class poetry book.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem about their favorite place.

Materials:

- “The Old Apple-Tree” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Construction paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils etc.
- Stapler or hole puncher and string (to put the final book together)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students what the old apple tree meant to Dunbar. Next, have the students write their own poem about their favorite place to sit and read a book, relax, or hang out with friends. Once the students have written their poems, have them write a final ‘published’ copy in their best handwriting to glue onto a piece of construction paper. Have them illustrate their poem as well.

When all of the students have published their poems, put them together in a book format with a cover page and a back page to be displayed in the classroom library.

