

Murals

This activity accompanies “Merry Autumn,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5029.

Activity Title: Murals

Description: The students will work in small groups to create a mural illustrating the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Visual Arts

Skill: Reading comprehension and visual art creation

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will display the main idea and setting of the poem through the creation of a work of art.

Materials:

- “Merry Autumn” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Large sheets of blank white paper (for the murals)
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, chalk, etc.
- Construction paper
- Glue

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the visual imagery found in the poem. Have the students close their eyes and visualize the scenes from the poem, as you read it a second time. Next, have the students work in groups of four or five to create a mural depicting the setting and scenes found in the poem. Display the works of art around the room when the students are finished. Then, have an art gallery type presentation where the groups rotate to observe the other groups’ murals.