

Where we Write

This activity accompanies “The Lapse,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5142.

Activity Title: Where we Write

Description: The students will write in a new environment for inspiration.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will use a new environment as an inspiration for writing.

Materials:

- “The Lapse” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Writing notebooks or clipboards and paper

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem. Then, have the students brainstorm ideas of where they could write (within the school’s campus). Once a list of ideas has been established, have the students vote on where they would like to write. When a location is decided upon, explain to the students how to allow the environment to influence them by paying attention to details, sounds, smells, etc.

Next, have the students bring a pencil and writing notebook, or paper and clipboard to the chosen location. Allow the students ample time to write a short story or poem. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote in small groups, and describe what influenced their writing (staying in the location, if possible).

