

Musical Illustrations

This activity accompanies “On the River,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5382.

Activity Title: Musical Illustrations

Description: The students will illustrate the poem, using the descriptive language of the poem as a guide.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Arts: Visual

Skill: Reading Comprehension and Art Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will illustrate the poem, using the descriptive language of the poem as a guide.

Materials:

- “On the River” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers, etc.

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 each student use the first stanza of the poem to begin an illustration for the poem. Allow the students enough time to complete their illustration for the first stanza only. Next, have the students pass their illustrations to the student on their left, and then have the students begin the illustration for the second stanza on their classmates’ papers. When the second stanza is complete, have the students pass to the left again to complete the third stanza, and then repeat this sequence for the fourth stanza as well.

Finally, when the students have finished working, have the students return the illustrations to the original owners, and allow them time to enjoy their collaborative efforts. Hang the illustrations on a wall as a collage for display.

