

## Spelling Bee

This activity accompanies “The Spellin’-Bee,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5014.

**Activity Title:** Spelling Bee

**Description:** The students will organize and participate in a class spelling bee.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Editing for language conventions - Spelling

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will work in a group to organize and participate in a class spelling bee.

**Materials:**

- “The Spellin’-Bee” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Extra spelling bee resources available at:
  - [http://www.myspellit.com/Spell\\_It\\_2009\\_download.pdf](http://www.myspellit.com/Spell_It_2009_download.pdf)
  - <http://www.spellingbee.com/>

**Procedures:**

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main events of the poem. Next, split the class into two teams. Have each team work together to create a spelling bee challenge for the other team, using spelling words, vocabulary words, or word wall words (or some of each). For older students you may wish to use the Spell It! word list (located at the first link listed above). If there is time, have the students use dictionaries to look up the word origin for each of their spelling bee words.

When the students are ready to present, have team one give team two their challenge, until a winner is established; repeat with team two. Have a prize available for the two winners. For example, lunch with the teacher, free homework pass, or something similar.

