

Nature Walk Riddles

This activity accompanies “The Secret,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5052.

Activity Title: Nature Walk Riddles

Description: The students will explore secret things about nature at their school.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Questioning

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will create a riddle about something in nature.
- The student will use questioning and reasoning skills to answer a classmate’s riddle.

Materials:

- “The Secret” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil

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, take the students on a nature walk around the school; have them bring paper, pencil, and a clipboard, or a notebook to take notes about something they see in nature. Let them know that they will be writing a riddle about something in nature, and they need to collect as many details about it as possible.

Once back from the nature walk, have the students write a riddle about something they saw. Encourage them to use a lot of details, and to be creative. Then, pair the students randomly and have them share their riddles. Have the students tell their riddle and if the other student cannot guess it on the first try, have them ask yes or no questions until they figure it out. Switch partners multiple times, that way the students have a chance to answer multiple riddles. An example of a riddle is written below.

Riddle:

Watch out because you may not see me! I am tiny and black, but sometimes red, or both black and red. I work in the dirt. I am a(n) _____. (Ant)

