

Home Alone Manual

This activity accompanies “Lonesome,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5069.

Activity Title: Home Alone Manual

Description: The students will write a manual for what to do if left home alone.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a manual for what to do if left home alone.

Materials:

- “Lonesome” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers, etc.
- Instructions for creating a manual (below)

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students how Dunbar feels about his mother leaving him for a month or two. Ask the students how they would feel if their mother left the house for a month or two, and what they would do if left home alone. Next, have the students create a manual (show an example of a manual if necessary) explaining to a friend what to do if left home alone. Instructions for creating a manual are listed below.



Instructions for writing a manual:

1. Know your procedures before writing the manual. You may wish to brainstorm or write an outline before beginning.
2. If supplies are needed, list them in the order of first use.
3. Remember as the instructor you need to go through step by step so nothing is left out. Details are necessary!
4. Number your steps as you write them.
5. Once you have all of your steps listed in order, create categories or headings, if necessary.
6. Write a Table of Contents for your instructions; this is a good reference for your reader.
7. Title your manual.

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