

Your Sympathies

This activity accompanies “Sympathy,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5098.

Activity Title: Your Sympathies

Description: The students will create a poster and a slogan for a cause of their choice.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Persuasive Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will create a poster and slogan for a cause of their choice

Materials:

- “Sympathy” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Construction paper
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc
- Magazines to cut out pictures (if available)
- Scissors
- Glue

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, especially how Dunbar has sympathy for the caged bird. Next, have the students create a poster, including a slogan, explaining something for which they have sympathy. Have the students include a short explanation at the bottom of their poster stating why they are sympathetic towards what they chose. Some examples may be zoo animals, sea life, circus animals, etc. When the students are finished, have them share their posters in small groups.