

Dat Ol' _____ O' Mine

This activity accompanies “Dat Ol’ Mare O’ Mine,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5227.

Activity Title: Dat Ol’ _____ O’ Mine

Description: The students will write a poem about something that is special and important to them.

Subject: Reading and Language/Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem about something that is special and important to them.

Materials:

- “Dat Ol’ Mare O’ Mine” 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 listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link above). Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Then, have the students think about something that is special or important to them, that they would not sell; as the author would not sell his mare.

Next, have the students write a poem about their something special, titling their poem “Dat Ol’ _____ O’ Mine” filling in the blank with their item. For example, they may write about a pet, a stuffed animal, a favorite bike or toy, or even a sibling. When the students are finished writing, have them share their poems in small groups.

