

## Harriet Beecher Stowe

This activity accompanies “Harriet Beecher Stowe,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5136.

**Activity Title:** Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Description:** The students will explain who Harriet Beecher Stowe was, and why Dunbar may have written a poem about her.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Author’s Purpose

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will explain who Harriet Beecher Stowe was, and why Dunbar may have written a poem about her.

**Materials:**

- “Harriet Beecher Stowe” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information on Harriet Beecher Stowe available at: <http://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/life/>, <http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/odc08.langarts.ortt.stowe/> (this link has a 9 ½ minute video summarizing the impact of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and the people of Underground Railroad.)

**Procedures:**

Visit the website links listed above with the students to learn more about Harriet Beecher Stowe. Have the students watch the video about the impact that Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, had on the United States at the time. Then, read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Next, have the students work in small groups to write an explanation for why they think Dunbar wrote this poem about Stowe. When the groups are finished, have them share what they wrote with the class.

