

Observe and Write

This activity accompanies “The Monk’s Walk,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5261.

Activity Title: Observe and Write

Description: The students will take a nature walk and write down everything they observe, using thorough details and descriptions.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write what he or she observes on a nature walk.

Materials:

- “The Monk’s Walk” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Clipboard or notebook for writing

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, discuss with the students the details and descriptions the author uses throughout the poem. Next, explain to the students that they will be taking a nature walk, and as they walk they are to observe the things around them. Take the students on a walk around the school’s campus, or nature walkway, if available at the school. While walking, take breaks to have the students write notes about what they observe, using thorough details and descriptions.

