

Create a Town

This activity accompanies “Possum Trot,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5175.

Activity Title: Create a Town

Description: The students will write a poem about a town they create.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Writing

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a poem about a town they create.

Materials:

- “Possum Trot” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Construction paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Then, have the students create their own town where they would like to live. Have the students brainstorm ideas for what the town would be like, and the type of people that would live there. Then, using their brainstorming ideas, have the students write a poem about their made up town. When the students are finished have them illustrate their town on a piece of construction paper, and write a final copy of their poem on the paper as well. If there is time, have the students present their poems to the class.

