

Shadow Theatre

This activity accompanies “At Candle-Lightin’ Time,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5182.

Activity Title: Shadow Theatre

Description: The students will write a story to accompany a shadow puppet of their choice.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Arts: Theatre

Skill: Writing and Theatre Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will write a story to accompany a shadow puppet.

Materials:

- “At Candle-Lightin’ Time” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information on how to create hand shadow puppets available at: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/ground-hog-day/hand-shadows/> and <http://www.horniman.ac.uk/pdf/Activity3&4HandShadowPuppet.pdf>
- Flashlights or Overhead projector light (to use while creating shadow puppets)

Procedures:

Before beginning this lesson, visit the links above and print various shadow hand puppet instructions for the students to use during the lesson.

Read the poem with the students, or have them listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link above). Discuss with the students the dialect and main idea of the poem. Then, share with the students how to create a shadow puppet with their hands, using an example from one of the websites above. Next, have the students choose a shadow puppet to write a short story or poem about. When the students have finished writing their stories, have them practice their shadow puppet along with their story. Finally, have the students present their shadow puppet and story with the class.

