

Play the Music

This activity accompanies “Whistling Sam,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5183.

Activity Title: Play the Music

Description: The students will learn the whistling tunes of Sam, from the poem.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Arts: Music

Skill: Reading Comprehension and Music Applications

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will learn the whistling tunes of Sam, from the poem.

Materials:

- “Whistling Sam” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Access to someone who can read music and play an instrument.

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 dialect and main idea of the poem. Then, have a person who can read music and play an instrument play the notes that are scattered throughout the poem, while reading the poem a second time. Next, have the students vote for one of the tunes in the poem to learn to whistle. Have the students practice whistling the tune together as a class, and then read the section leading up to the tune and put it all together.

