

Lesson Blueprints: Poetry Lessons

Lesson Title: Acrostic Poem

Grade Level: Elementary School

Project and Purpose

Students write and share acrostic poems.

Essential Question

How does writing an acrostic poem help us express our ideas on a topic?

Introduction

Introduce the idea of an acrostic poem to the group. Explain that acrostics are fun poems that follow very simple rules and are easy to write because the lines do not need to rhyme and the length of each line does not matter.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Demonstrate how to set up an acrostic with your name or a selected theme word written vertically down the left side of a piece of paper.
2. Explain that the word is the theme for the poem. Show how to write a word or a phrase that is connected to the theme that begins with one of the letters in the vertical word.
 - Ex. If your vertical word is "Purple", one of your brainstormed ideas might be "Plums are yummy to eat". You could place this phrase on either of the "P"s in the word purple.

Guided Instruction (We do)

1. Brainstorm words and phrases with students to help you complete your acrostic.
2. When complete, ask for a volunteer to read the acrostic out loud and discuss how

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Tell students it is their turn to write an acrostic of their own. Decide how to choose the base word for the acrostic, e.g., their names, theme words, etc.
2. Have students brainstorm words or phrases that describe their ideas. It might be helpful for your students to do this on a separate piece of paper. Encourage them to come up with as many words and phrases as possible so they have a lot to choose from when they write their poems.
3. Tell them to neatly write their brainstormed words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters. Using the brainstormed words and phrases, have students write their ideas on the piece of paper that has the focus word or phrase written vertically.
4. Fill in the rest of the poem. If your students have a few letters left over, encourage them to work with a partner to help think of ideas starting with the remaining letters or add a word to the beginning of one of their phrases to make it fit in their poem.

Lesson Blueprints: Poetry Lessons

Lesson Title: Acrostic Poem Rubric

Grade Level: Elementary School

Student _____

Project Title _____

Rubric	3	2	1	Score
Conventions	The poem has 0 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.	The poem has 1-4 errors in grammar, punctuation or spelling.	The poem has more than 5 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.	
Completion	Each letter of the acrostic has a word or phrase.	Most of the letters of the acrostic have words or phrases.	Some or none of the letters of the acrostic have words or phrases.	
Focus on a Single Topic	All lines of the poem focus on the same topic.	Most of the lines of the poem focus on the same topic.	Some or none of the lines focus on the same topic.	
Poetic Form	The poem follows acrostic form.	Some of the lines follow acrostic form.	The poem does not follow acrostic form.	
Neatness	The poem is very neat and written legibly.	The poem is somewhat neat; some erasure marks are noted.	The poem is messy and difficult read due to erasures, cross outs, and other markings.	Total