

Lesson: Write ABC Poetry

Opening Statement:

When you select a topic for a poem and use ABCs to arrange the content of the poem it is called ABC poetry. The poet Paul West gave us this form.

Standards Achieved:

English Language Arts
Social Studies Skills

Grade: 3rd Grade and up

Knowledge Objectives:

Students will learn:

There are different forms of poetry.
Paul Laurence Dunbar wrote different kinds of poetry.
Alphabet poetry is a distinct kind of poetry.

Skill Objectives:

Students will learn:

How to compose alphabet poetry.

Procedure:

1. Explain what alphabet poetry is.
2. Write the letters A to Z on the board and draw two lines, one below the other after each letter.
3. Ask the students to help you think of a topic for your classroom poetry.
4. Decide (as a group) how many words the class should use.
5. Think of words that describe or relate to your topic. Every letter of the alphabet should have a word.
6. Allow the class to be creative.

Example:

Topic: Food

Apricots, bright, colorful, discs, eating, forever, gorging, however, icky, juicy, kernels, loving, morsels, never, only, pies, quiche, red-hot, steaming, tacos, undeniably, very, wonderful, Xmas, yummy, zeal!

7. After the class learns how to write alphabet poetry, ask each student to write a poem.