

Lesson: Write Acrostic Poetry

Opening Statement:

Acrostic poetry gives particular attention to the physical arrangement of the lines. Verse is unrhymed and the title of the poem is the subject.

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.
Acrostic poetry is a distinct kind of poetry.

Skill Objectives:

Students will learn:

How to compose acrostic poetry.

Procedure:

1. Explain what acrostic poetry is.
2. Ask children to think of the names of their favorite TV characters, musicians, or favorite sports.
3. Pick one or two of the names and write them vertically on the board.
Example: He-Man, Cyndi Lauper, Bugs Bunny, Baseball, etc.
H _____
E _____
M _____
A _____
N _____
4. Have the class think of sentences that describe the subject they have chosen.
5. The sentences do NOT have to rhyme.
6. Be creative!
Example:
He flew through the air with the greatest of ease.
Evil-doers knew never to come around.
Men, women, and children felt safe at night
And everyone clapped as he soared to the ground.
Never taking a bow.
7. After the class writes one poem together, ask the students to write and individual verse.