Teacher Notes

Literary Genres: Poetry

Activity
Acrostic Contest

Activity at a Glance

- **Subject:** English
- **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- **Category:** Literary Genres
- **Topic:** Poetry
- **Grade Level:** 6 - 12
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Total Teaching Time:** 60 minutes

Materials

- TI-83 Plus
- NoteFolio™ Application
- TI External Keyboard
- Teacher Sample: **"Spring" Acrostic Poem**
- Student Sheets: **Acrostic Contest Ballot, Reflecting On What You've Done**

Activity Overview

After sharing an example of acrostic poetry (see the Teacher Sample **"Spring" Acrostic Poem**), the teacher divides the students into groups. Students, competing in groups, will write acrostic poems that creatively employ knowledge of a given topic. The first group to complete its acrostic poem will win the Speed Prize. After all groups have completed their acrostic poems, student voting will determine the winner of a second prize, the Audience Prize.

Tip

This activity is designed as a competition. Be sure to have awards ready for the winners of the Speed Prize and the Audience Prize. Snacks or extra credit points work nicely as prizes. To minimize the potential flames of heated competition, it is a good idea to give all participants something.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Share an example of acrostic poetry (see the Teacher Sample **"Spring" Acrostic Poem**). Place it on the overhead projector. Read it aloud or have a student read it aloud. Review the definition of an acrostic poem.

During the Activity

Divide the students into groups of four. You may do this randomly or systematically. Use your discretion; you know your students best.
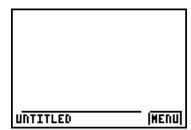
Give each group the same word or short phrase. Choose a topic that relates to a recent or current unit, a current event or something from popular culture (an artist/entertainer, hit movie, song or television program).

Inform the groups that they have ten minutes to complete their acrostic poems. Note: The time may need to be adjusted depending on factors such as the topic and the class' collective ability level.

Acrostic poems may be handwritten in this first round of competition. Once the winner of the Speed Prize has been determined, instruct the groups to type their completed poems on their devices in order to compete for the Audience Prize.

Use the following instructions to access the NoteFolio™ application on the device.

1. Turn on the device and press [APPS]. Select the NoteFolio™ application by highlighting the number next to it using [▲] [▼].

2. Press [ENTER]. Press [ENTER] again to move past the title screen.

3. Type your work. To save your work, press [GRAPH] to access the **MENU**.

4. Select **4: Save As** by using [▲] [▼] to highlight this option.

5. Press [ENTER]. Type a file name. A suggested file name is **ACRO** (for "Acrostic Poem").

```
        Save As...
File name:
      ┌──────────┐
      │ _        │
      └──────────┘
 OK              CANCEL
```

6. Press [Y=] (OK), or press [ENTER] to complete the saving process.

After the Activity

To determine the winner of the Audience Prize, post the typed acrostic poems in the classroom and have a different class vote for the winner. Please see **Acrostic Student Ballot.**

Homework

Have students complete the student handout entitled **Reflecting On What You've Done.**

Teacher Sample
"Spring" Acrostic Poem

What is an acrostic poem?

The structure of an acrostic poem is dictated by a vertically-written word. Each letter of the word is the first letter of a line in the poem.

Sample acrostic poem based on the word "spring"

Sparrows fly in the blue sky

Porches are finally filled with people

Running on the green grass

I look down to see the first flower of the season

No other flowers around (yet)

Green leaves decorate the trees

Acrostic Contest Ballot

Which acrostic poem deserves the Audience Prize?

_____

Use the following criteria when making your choice:

- ◆ Each line is directly related to the topic

- ◆ Few or no technical errors

- ◆ Use of poetic techniques such as alliteration, assonance, repetition and rhyme (among others)

- ◆ Overall creativity

Student Work Sheet
Reflecting On What You've Done

Name: _____

Date: _____

What did you like about this activity?

What did you not like about this activity?

Is there anything you would have done differently if you were the teacher?

What was the most challenging part of this activity?

What was the easiest part of this activity?