

Bio Poems Made Easy

By Laura Candler



What are Bio Poems?

A bio poem is a simple poem written about a person, and it follows a predictable pattern. Bio poems generally don't rhyme, and they can be autobiographical or biographical. Begin by having your students write bio poems about themselves, and later they can write about other people or characters. In this packet you'll find two ready-to-use graphic organizers, a sample poem, a planning page, and decorative writing paper.

Bio Poem Topic Ideas

- **Back to School** - Write and share autobiographical poems
- **Holiday-Themed** - Mother's Day, Father's Day, President's Day
- **Book or Movie Characters**
- **Historical Figures** - Scientists, Inventors, Explorers, Politicians

Suggested Lesson Sequence

1. Before the lesson, write your own bio poem following the example on the next page. You'll need this to share with your students when you start the lesson.
2. Begin by telling your students that they are going to create simple poems about themselves called "bio poems." Display and read your example to the class.
3. Distribute copies of the brainstorming boxes graphic organizer on page 4. As a class, brainstorm a list of positive character traits that could be written in the first box. Then ask your students to record ideas for each topic in the other 7 boxes.
4. After students have spent 10 to 15 minutes brainstorming ideas on their own, encourage them to pair up with a partner and discuss their ideas.
5. Next display your example again and show students how to use the ideas from the brainstorming boxes graphic organizer to create a bio poem. Younger students may need the planning page template (page 6), but older students can usually do this on lined paper if you display the template in front of the class. Let them arrange the lines in any order they wish.



Sample Bio Poem

Laura
Dedicated, creative, caring
Lover of black cats, great books, and warm
chocolate chip cookies
Who wonders if there is life on other planets
Who fears that we may be destroying our
own planet
Who feels happy and peaceful when she's
kayaking the Lumbee River
Who cares about rain forest animals and
plants losing their homes
Who dreams of hiking up beautiful mountains
in far away places!

Bio Poem Brainstorming Boxes

Adjectives that describe you		Lovers of	
Who feels	Who wonders	Who fears	Who cares about
Who is able to	Who dreams		

6. After students write a draft on the Bio Poem Planning Page, ask them to confer with a partner and check each other's work for spelling or grammatical errors. Ask them to copy their final poems onto the decorative paper on page 7. Or they could type their poems and print them, or simply copy them onto plain paper.
7. Provide time for students to share their poems. You might also want to create a class book of their work or display them on a bulletin board.



Bio Poem Planning Page

First Name _____

3 Words That Describe You _____

Lover of _____

Who is able to _____

Who feels _____

Who wonders _____

Who fears _____

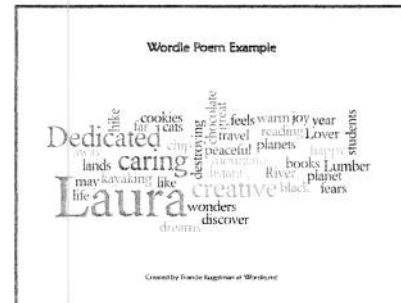
Who cares about _____

Who dreams of _____

Wordles Extension Activity

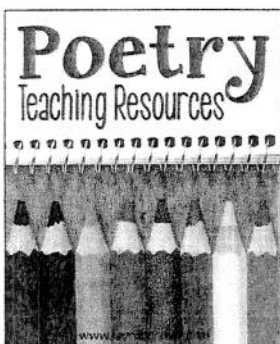
To integrate technology, have students create "Wordles" of their poems. To do this, students type their poems into the "create" page on Wordle.net at www.wordle.net/create. They can manipulate the size of the words by repeating the important words more than once; the more they repeat a word, the larger it will be in the final Wordle. If you have never created a Wordle yourself, experiment with the techniques yourself first.

Note: please be aware that the public Wordle gallery at www.wordle.net may have inappropriate Wordles, so don't allow your students to search the site.



Buddy Bio Poems

If you like this lesson, you'll LOVE **Buddy Bio Poems**, a fun poetry-writing activity for partners. The lesson begins with each student interviewing a partner to gather facts and information about his or her classmate. Next, each student composes a short bio poem using information learned during the partner interview. This activity can be used as a back-to-school icebreaker, as a fun writing activity before a holiday, or as an introductory lesson for a poetry unit. Click the image on the right to find it in my TpT store!



Looking for More Poetry Resources and Freebies?

To find more poetry resources and lessons, visit my **Poetry Teaching Resources** page on LauraCandler.com. It's packed with free resources as well as products that will save you time! Click this link to find it. www.lauracandler.com/filecabinet/literacy/poetry.php



Sample Bio Poem

Laura

Dedicated, creative, caring

Lover of black cats, great books, and warm
chocolate chip cookies

Who wonders if there is life on other planets

Who fears that we may be destroying our
own planet

Who feels happy and peaceful when she's
kayaking the Lumber River

Who cares about rain forest animals and
plants losing their homes

Who dreams of hiking up beautiful mountains
in far away places!

HAIKU

A haiku is a form of ancient Japanese poetry. They are often written about nature or the seasons but they can be written over any topic. Haikus do not generally have complete sentences. They are more often written as short thoughts and punctuation and capitalization are left up to the writer.

Directions:

Line One – five syllables

Line Two – seven syllables

Line Three – five syllables



Use your five senses to create vivid images in your haiku poetry. Since haikus are very short poems, you should not use any word in your poem more than once. Also, try to limit the use of unimportant words.

Samples:

Drip-drop on the roof
Tapping on my windowsill
Puddles in the street

Leaves from green to red
Crisp and gentle autumn breeze
Don't forget your coat

Waiting for the bell
Grab my backpack – out the door
The last day of school

Sizzle and a pop
Smells like breakfast in our house
Syrup on the side

Haiku

A Haiku is a Japanese poem that does not rhyme.
It is a poem that describes something in nature.
Haiku poems have three lines, with a certain
number of syllables in each line.

Line 1 = 5 syllables

Line 2 = 7 syllables

Line 3 = 5 syllables

The Ocean

Beautiful ocean
Roaring waves crash down on me
Floating in the foam

ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is generally short and easily identified. To write an acrostic poem, choose one main word to write vertically down the page. Then, using each letter in the main word, write a word or phrase that describes your main word. You may choose any subject or word, even your own name!

Samples:

R elaxing
E ntrancing
A ddictive
D iscoveries
I nteresting
N eat
G enres

B ouncing on the court
A lways running hard
S queaking soles of shoes
K eeping me in shape
E nergy in the stands
T ime-out
B uzzier beater
A mazing shot
L ong legs sprinting
L ove the victory

If you'd like more of a challenge, an acrostic poem can be written as an ongoing story.

Sample:

B eautiful outstretched arms
A rch over her graceful head. She
L eans slightly to the
L eft, a soft smile crossing her face.
E ffortlessly, she
R ises onto her toes and
I ntrigues the audience with her breathtaking beauty.
N ow, the curtain falls to the
A pplause of the awestruck crowd.



Acrostic

Keeps on jumping day after day
Australia's most interesting mammal
Never leaves its babies alone
Greatest marsupial of all time!
Always on the lookout for hungry dingoes
Ready to spring away when danger is near
Often carries joey around in its pouch
Outback jumper from Down Under!

CURIOUS

AFFECTIONATE

TABBY

CINQUAIN POEM

A cinquain is a five-line poem with a very strict form. You begin by choosing a noun (person, place or thing) that is meaningful to you. Throughout the poem, you use various parts of speech to describe the noun you chose.

Directions:

Line one has one word: the subject of the poem. This word is a noun.

Line two has two words: adjectives that describe the noun. Separate these two words with commas.

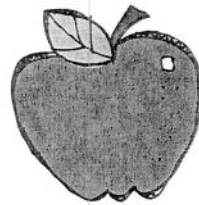
Line three has three words: verbs expressing actions that tell what the noun does. These actions should end in -ing and be separated by commas.

Line four has four words: a short phrase expressing feeling about the noun.

Line five has one word: a synonym for the noun.

Samples:

Grandma
Warm, familiar
Baking, scolding, hugging
Sings me to sleep
Mema



Apple
Crispy, tart
Crunching, squirting, rotting
Watch out for worms
Fruit

Sample Cinquains

puppy
ornery, naughty
growling, jumping, chewing
a playful bundle of trouble
Boxer

penguin
black, white
waddling, swimming, leaping
a tuxedo in the cold water
emperor

apple
red, delicious
crunching, chewing, eating
my favorite snack
apple

keyboard
fun, new
reading, laughing, writing
you have 6 new messages
e-mail

racing
fast, zip
buzzing, rushing, flying
drivers on the track
NASCAR

tree
white, tall
reaching, bending, fluttering
leaves and twigs in the wind
aspen

party
happy, cheerful
singing, eating, playing
my eighth birthday party
perfect

rodeo
loud, busy
roping, riding, exciting
dozens of horses in the arena
stampede

truck
big, long
driving, speeding, passing
tractor trailer on the highway
semi

dessert
cold, creamy
eating, giggling, licking
cone with three scoops
ice cream

Quatrain

- A four-line stanza
- Common rhyme schemes in quatrains are *AABB*, *ABAB*, and *AAAB*
- I wish I had no teachers.
That's what I'd like to see.
I'd do whatever I wanted to,
And nobody'd yell at me.

