

Illustrated Poems

Objective: Students will write an acrostic poem and design an illustration incorporating the poem.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Acrostic poem- a type of poetry where the first letters in a line spell out a particular word or phrase.

Materials: drawing paper, pencils, colored pencils, crayons.

Opening Activity: Explain to students that they are going to WRITE and ILLUSTRATE a poem, where the FIRST LETTER of each line spells a WORD. Listen to this poem by National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman: <https://youtu.be/NwdsaxqJut4>

Then, create an ACROSTIC poem together with the WHOLE GROUP, based on the word THANKS. Take a piece of paper or use a white board to write the word T H A N K S vertically, making sure you have space to the right of each letter to write a phrase or sentence. Then, start with the first letter: T. Ask 1 student to say a word (NOT THANKS) that starts with the letter T. Then, call on another student to complete a phrase about giving thanks using the T word as the first word in the phrase. Write the phrase on the board or sheet next to the letter T... continue for EACH LETTER in the word THANKS. THEN... DRAW A BOX AROUND THE LETTERS “ T H A N K S” to show how these letters still stand out from the full poem.

Core Activity: Distribute the drawing paper and pencils. Have students write GIVE across the top right corner and then VERTICALLY write THANKS down the left side. Then, have them create an acrostic poem based on their own lives, cultures, families and sense of gratitude. They may use colored pencils, and crayons to fully illustrate or decorate their poems. They can also choose to create AND illustrate a list poem if they may feel inspired to expand this activity into a longer work. Encourage them to go for it: list poems are a great way to bring the vibe of an acrostic poem to life as spoken word. Here's a great example of an ILLUSTRATED list poem, called Direct Orders by Anis Mojgani: <https://youtu.be/-bEptEN7RNo>

Reflection: As students are cleaning up, ask them to share their POEMS out loud with the group, one at a time!