



Skill Building: Alphabet Poem

Background for the Teacher

Definition: An alphabet poem uses each letter from either the entire alphabet from A to Z, or a portion thereof, to begin a line of poetry on a chosen topic.

Skills needed: an understanding of alphabetical order

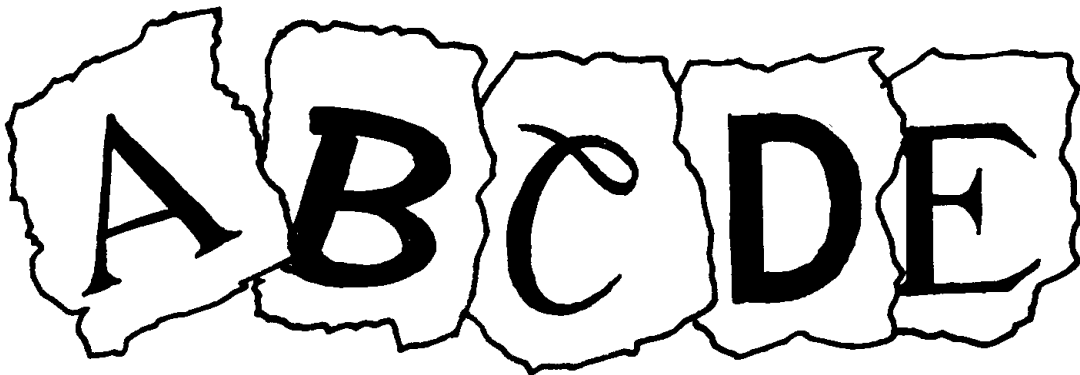
Materials needed: Alphabet Squares (page 40), Alphabet Poem Brainstorming worksheet (page 41), Alphabet Poem Draft worksheet (page 42), Response and Assessment (page 45), and old magazines and newspapers

Preparation: Reproduce one copy of each worksheet for each student. Cut out the alphabet squares. Gather together all of the remaining materials.

Lesson Plan

Prewriting

1. Introduce alphabet poems by having students create an alphabetized list about a favorite topic. You may use the Alphabet Poem Brainstorming worksheet or create a list on the board with the entire class. Choose a topic such as “All About Me” for individual students or “Our School” for the whole class.
2. Distribute one letter square from Alphabet Squares to each student. (Start the alphabet over again if you have more than 26 students, or have students work in pairs.)
3. Tell the students to think of a word that starts with their letters, one that relates to the chosen topic. They may write the word on the back of their alphabet squares or dictate them to someone.



Skill Building: Alphabet Poem *(cont.)*

Drafting

1. On the board or chart paper, write the class alphabet poem by calling each letter of the alphabet in order. The students, or pairs, can call out their words, or they may come up to write them on the board or chart on the appropriate line.
2. When all the assigned letters have been called and the words added to the poem, read the poem aloud. Congratulate the students for having written a poem together. If the poem was written on chart paper, you may wish to have students create illustrations to be glued around the border of the poem.
3. Generate a discussion among the students about how they created the poem. What did they do first? What did they do next? How did they think of words to fit? What did they do last?
4. Distribute the Alphabet Poem Brainstorming worksheet to the students. Tell them to select a topic and to brainstorm words that relate to it.
5. When students are ready, distribute the Alphabet Poem Draft worksheet. Have the students write their own alphabet poems on the worksheet. Younger students will need to dictate their poems.

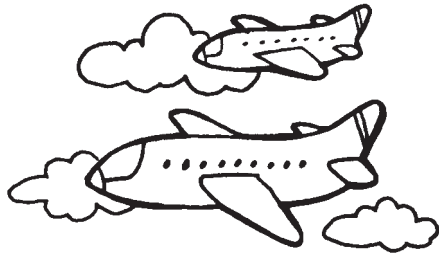
Revising/Editing

1. The students should share their alphabet poems with responders from class (this may be done orally in small groups for pre-readers). The responders' feedback can be recorded on the Response and Assessment sheet.
2. Encourage students to make any changes they wish, after receiving feedback and before writing a final draft.

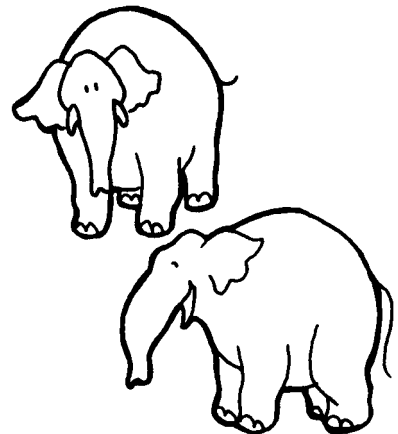
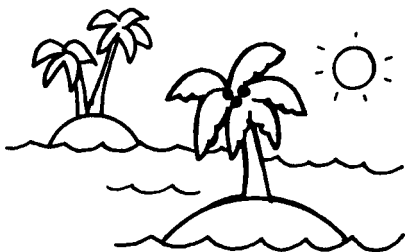
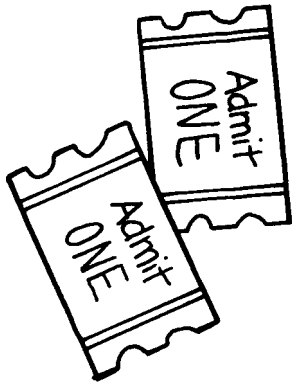
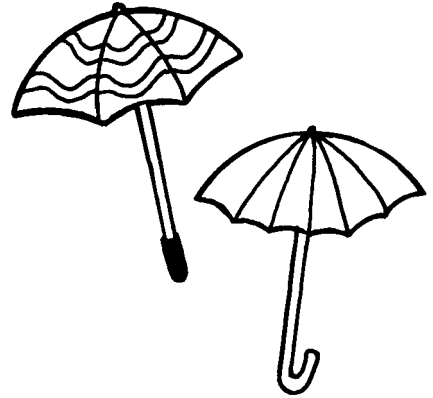
Publishing

1. Post the class-generated alphabet poem, along with the illustrations, in a place where all the students can see it.
2. Students may wish to use letters cut from magazines and newspapers to illustrate their individual, or partner alphabet poems. Copies of these poems would make a good classroom book for a writing center.

Student Sample of an Alphabet Poem



Traveling
Airplanes
Bicycles
Cameras
Departures
Elephants
Food
Gardens
Hotels
Islands
Jungles
Kangaroos
Lines
Markets
Natives
Outdoors
Passports
Queues
Rain
Shoes
Tickets
Umbrellas
Views
Windows
X-rays
Yellowstone
Zoos



Alphabet Squares

Reproduce this sheet and cut the squares apart to distribute to students. (Note: You will need a second copy if you have more than 26 students, or you can put students in pairs instead.)

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X
	Y	Z	

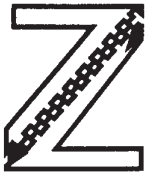
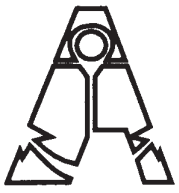
Alphabet Poem Brainstorming

The topic you choose will be the title of your alphabet poem. Brainstorm words that relate to your topic. You may use a dictionary, if you wish. Find words that begin with each letter of the alphabet.

Topic _____

A _____ _____	J _____ _____	S _____ _____
B _____ _____	K _____ _____	T _____ _____
C _____ _____	L _____ _____	U _____ _____
D _____ _____	M _____ _____	V _____ _____
E _____ _____	N _____ _____	W _____ _____
F _____ _____	O _____ _____	X _____ _____
G _____ _____	P _____ _____	Y _____ _____
H _____ _____	Q _____ _____	Z _____ _____
I _____ _____	R _____ _____	

Alphabet Poem Draft



Write your alphabet poem on the lines.

Topic _____

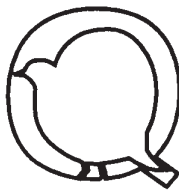
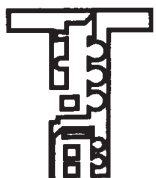












Response and Assessment: Alphabet Poems

Author's Name _____

Poem Title _____

Responder's Name _____ Date _____

Responder:

Did the author . . .

- write the poem in alphabetical order?
- use one line for each letter of the alphabet?
- use creativity and imagination?

Did you enjoy reading this poem? Why? _____

Do you have any suggestions for the author? _____

Author:

Did you make any changes in your poem? _____

Did you enjoy writing this poem? Why or why not? _____

What do you like best about your poem? _____

What was the hardest part of writing this poem? _____

Would you like to write another alphabet poem? **Yes** **No**

Teacher:

_____ The student understands the concept of an alphabet poem.

_____ The student is creative and original.

_____ The student understands the revision process, and has used it.

Score _____