

Acrostic Poetry

Suggested Application: Language Arts

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- learn about acrostic poetry
- learn about a Medal of Honor Recipient

Medal of Honor Focus: Any Medal of Honor Recipient (Example: Hiroshi Miyamura, U.S. Army, Korean War)

Introductory Activity:

Review the process of creating an acrostic poem. The teacher will introduce the lesson by explaining that an acrostic poem does not rhyme and has no syllable count. An acrostic poem uses all letters in a topic word. All of the lines of the poem should relate to or describe the word.

Whole Group Activity:

The teacher will guide the class to make an acrostic poem about a commonly known person and place it on the board.

Small Group/Individual Activity:

The students will randomly select a Medal of Honor Recipient from an envelope (these are pre-selected by the teacher from the Medal of Honor website or list of Recipients in the Index). The students will then research their Recipient and create an acrostic poem based on the first and last name of the Recipient.

Whole Group Activity:

Students will post their poems in the room. In a gallery walk format, the students will walk around the classroom and view all poems.

Concluding Activity:

Using a notecard, students will explain why they chose the words and descriptions that make up their acrostic poem.

Assessment:

Poem, notecard

Resources:

Sample Acrostic poem, notecards, envelope of Recipient names

Extended Activity:

Students will select a poem, not their own, and make inferences about the Recipient.

SAMPLE ACROSTIC POEM

Hiroshi Miyamura

Fought in **CH**osin Relatives were
Interned Japanese American in a
wa**R** against the Japanese Outnumbered
by Chinese tr**O**ops
Told squad member**S** to retreat while he covered them
He kicked away a grenade
Pr**I**soner at POW camp

Captive in POW ca**M**p for 27 months
Intense cold!
"Get up, **Y**ou are my prisoner."
MA**C**hine gun squad leader
Feels hu**M**bled by the waving flag Weather and terrain were
Unrelenting PR**O**ved his loyalty to his country
U. S. Army, Kore**A**, 1951

