

Bio Poems Made Easy



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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. It's best to have students begin by writing Bio Poems about themselves, but later you can have them write about famous historical figures or book characters. Take a look at the sample poem on page 3 for a better understanding of the format for a Bio Poem.

Suggested Lesson Sequence

1. Before the lesson, create your own Bio Poem using the example on the next page. You'll share this with your students.
2. Begin the lesson 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 the Planning Page with the 8 boxes. Ask students to brainstorm ideas for each box. You might require them to use at least 6 of the 8 categories. As a class, brainstorm a list of positive character traits words that could describe a person.
4. After students have spent 10 to 15 minutes brainstorming, allow them to pair up with a partner and discuss their plans.
5. Next display your example again and show students how to take ideas from their planning page to create a poem.
6. Younger students may need the template, but older students can usually do this on lined paper. Let them arrange the lines in any order they would like.
7. To integrate technology, have students create Wordles of their poems. This strategy was suggested by 5th grade teacher Francie Kugelman, and you can see the example on page 6 that she created from my bio poem. 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 page at www.wordle.net may have inappropriate Wordles, so always take your students directly to the Create page.)
8. Provide time for sharing the poems, or create a class book of their work. You can also create a bulletin board using photographs of each student placed next to their poems.



For more poetry lessons and printables by Laura Candler, please visit the Poetry page on Teaching Resources: www.lauracandler.com/filecabinet/literacy/poetry.php or Laura's resources on TeachersPayTeachers.com.

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 would like to travel to distant lands
and hike far away mountains

Who dreams that this year all her students
will discover the joy of reading!

Bio Poem Planning

Name _____

Words that Describe You	Lover of . . .
Who feels . . .	Who wonders . . .
Who fears . . .	Who would like to . . .
Who is able to . . .	Who dreams . . .

Bio Poem Template

First Name _____

3 Words That Describe You _____

Lover of _____

Who is able to _____

Who feels _____

Who wonders _____

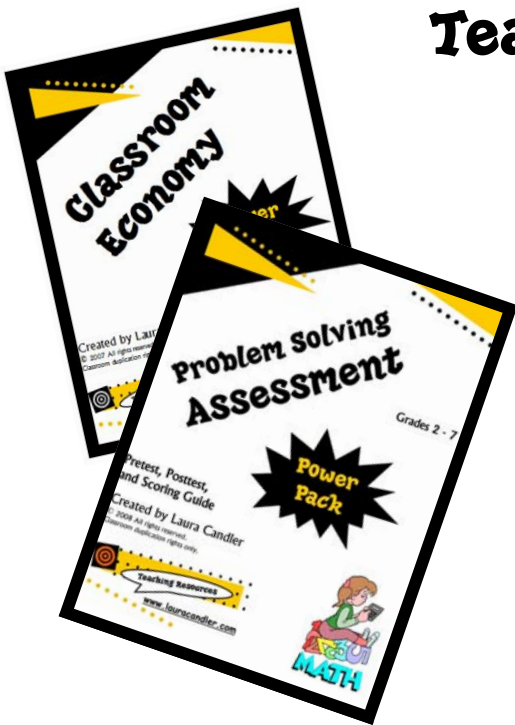
Who fears _____

Who would like to _____

Who dreams _____

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