For the next three weeks you are going to read about, look at examples of, and create six different types of poems.

**Week Five - May 11-17:** Study the Acrostic and Alphabet poems. For the acrostic poem, write three poems (one poem for each of the three different types of acrostic poems described below). For the alphabet poem, try a shorter one first, then try one with all 26 letters of the alphabet. For this week you will submit **5** poems in total.

**1. What is an Acrostic Poem?**

[**https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem**](https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem)**?**

An acrostic poem is a fun poetry form that can be written about any topic. It is a poem where letters within the lines of that poem (at the beginning, middle, or end) spell out a specific word. That word is reflective of the topic or theme of the poem.

What are the rules?

The one rule of an acrostic poem is that a word must be spelled among the beginning, middle, or ending letters of a line. An acrostic poem does not have to rhyme, but it can. It also does not have to follow a specific syllable count.

How do I write an acrostic poem?

1. Think of the word you want your poem to be about (family, hope, inspiration, birthday, etc.).
2. Write the word vertically. Tip: Use paper instead of a computer. When writing poetry, it is easier to manipulate words and phrases on paper by jotting down thoughts or scribbling out words.
3. Write down some words or phrases you think of when it comes to that topic (ex: FAMILY – fun, love, siblings, mom, dad, bond, care, memories, bickering, time together, play, vacation, etc.).
4. If the words you think of start with one of the beginning letters of a line, go ahead and fill them in. From there, work on fitting your other ideas into the lines.
5. When writing acrostic poems, make sure the letters that spell out the word are clearly marked by using capitals, quotations, or bold print.
6. For young children or beginning poets, a simple way to start is by associating only one word to each of the letters in the poem:

**F**un
**A**nd
**M**emories
**I**
**L**ove
**Y**ou

1. Play around with the language to add more details to enhance the poem. Some poems are written in a way that the featured word is subtle, while others make it more pronounced by saying “A is for…” Stretch yourself and write in a variety of ways. That is the best way we learn and hone your skill.

The 3 different types of acrostic poems

1. The first letter of each line
2. Using letters in the middle of the line
3. The last letter of each line

The most popular version is when a word is spelled using the first letter of each line (as seen above). Other options provide more of a challenge to experienced poets.

One option is to have a word hidden in the middle of the poem.

Poetry makes me ha**P**py
              And brings j**O**y to my soul.
            I can see mys**E**lf in the words,
            And it makes **M**e feel whole.

A third option is to write a poem that has a word spelled vertically using the last letters of each line. This can be the trickiest variety, but it is a great puzzle for those who want a challenge.

        When I'm feeling down and need a pick-me-u**P**
                              No other thing than write will d**O**.
It releases my emotions and makes me feel like m**E**.
          There's nothing like writing to make me cal**M**.

## Acrostic Poem Examples:

**F**unny times
**A**nd sad times
**M**ixed together.
**I** will always
**L**ove
**Y**ou.

**Examples of Obvious Acrostic Poems:**

**F** is for Father who protects us.
**A** is for Always loving each other.
**M** is for Mom who takes care of us.
**I** is for Instigating pranks on siblings.
**L** is for Listening to each other.
**Y** is for Yesterdays and tomorrows together.

**Examples of Subtle Acrostic Poems:**

**F**amily can be flesh and blood
**A**nd friends who would never leave you.
**M**y family is made up of both, and
**I**’ll stand by them and protect them with everything I have,
**L**earning to navigate life together through
**Y**esterday’s memories and tomorrow’s adventures.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/article-how-to-write-an-acrostic-poem>

**2. What is an Alphabet Poem?**

An alphabet or ABC poem is a poem where each line of the poem begins with a letter in the alphabet, starting with A and moving in order through Z. Each line focuses on building upon the central topic of the poem, creating a specific mood, feeling, or picture in the reader’s mind. There are various types of ABC (or Alphabet) poems. Some use all 26 letters, while others only use 5-6 of the letters in alphabetical order.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/other/abc/>

**Alphabet of Love**

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**A**gain, I'm sitting with pen in my hand and paper in front of me,
**B**reaking all the doors, trying to set my feelings free.
**C**arefully I'm choosing the words to write.
**D**on't want to keep anything inside.
**E**verything inside me I want to say.
**F**or so long I've been trying day after day.
**G**uessed it's easy, but it's not in any way.
**H**ow hard I tried to tell you
**I**n every way, but I couldn't do so.
**J**ust simple words I have to write,
**K**inda magical words that'll make everything right.
**L**ove you deeply from the bottom of my heart.
**M**y life means nothing when we're apart.
**N**o one but you can make me feel that complete.
**O**oh, my love we are meant to be; that's our fate.
**P**lease stay with me for always and forever.
**Q**uit anything, but leave me never.
**R**ight inside my heart you will always be.
**S**o happy I feel when you are with me.
**T**o you I hope to be always near.
**U**nique is the way along you I feel.
**V**ery happy, flying without wings.
**W**hat a joy to my heart your touch brings.
**X**-tremly perfect I feel near you.
**Y**es, my love, that's what I want you to know.
**Z**illions of words I have in my heart to say, and all of them are true.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/alphabet-of-love>