

Community inspired acrostic

Stories and poetry

20 minutes

You will need:

A large sheet of paper

A marker pen

Optional:

Examples of acrostics,
A4 paper, pens or pencils

One-to-one



Gentle
Reflective
Personal

Acrostics are a simple form of poem where the first letter of each word spells out a word or phrase related to the poem. Here the word is COMMUNITY, but once you are familiar with the technique it is a great foundation for writing poems on any theme.

To begin:

Explain to your group that you are going to write an acrostic together and then ask if anybody knows what an acrostic is. If nobody knows the answer, tell the group that it is a poem that uses the letters of a word or phrase to make up the first letter of the lines of a poem.

At this point it may be good to share some examples of acrostics for your group to have a look at – there are lots available online. If you do this, you can read through them together and talk about what you like about them and what you aren't so keen on.

Then:

Explain that you are going to have a go at writing your own acrostic inspired by the word COMMUNITY. Write the word down the left hand side of a large sheet of paper in big letters so that everybody can read it. Then go through letter by letter coming up with ideas for what to write for each line. You could do this together, or go around the group each taking a turn.

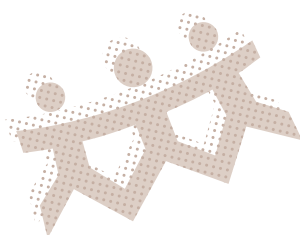
To finish:

Read back the poem that you have created together. Take time to make edits if you want to – changing sentences and phrases until you all agree that it is just right. When it is finished, read it back one more time.

You could also:

Have a go at writing more acrostic poems if the group enjoyed it. Some groups may enjoy taking time to write poems on their own or in pairs that they can then share together as a group.

Try using different stimuli to create more poems. For example, you could write one about home, one about family, one about holidays, etc.



Credit:

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