

Teacher notes

Acrostic Poems – Feelings and Emotions

During KS2, pupils should read and write a variety of styles of poetry. This resource focuses on acrostic poems, using abstract nouns to create the themes for writing. This activity also gives pupils the opportunity to discuss feelings and emotions through their understanding of abstract nouns, which covers aspects of Health Education.

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English Objectives covered are:

- Compose and rehearse sentences orally, building a varied and rich vocabulary... (year 3/4)
- To select appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning (year 5/6)

Relationships Education (taken from statutory guidance (2019) covered are:

- That there is a normal range of emotions;
- How to recognise and talk about emotions.

Resources included in this pack are:

- Example acrostic poems
- Planning sheet
- Acrostic poems writing paper
- Abstract nouns word mat

Activity 1

What is an abstract noun?

Discuss with the class what a noun is (a naming word) and revise different types of nouns that the pupils may have encountered previously (common, proper, collective and pronouns).

Explain that nouns can also be concrete or abstract. Concrete nouns are things that you can touch but abstract nouns are things that cannot be physically touched.

Show the class the abstract nouns word mat and identify and discuss words that they are unsure of the meaning of.

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Activity 2

What are emotions and feelings?

Explain that abstract nouns name emotions and feelings. Can they find examples of abstract nouns that are emotions or feelings on the word mat?

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Activity 3

Discuss how everyone has emotions and that it is normal to experience a wide range of emotions. Write some common emotions on large sheets of paper (love, happiness, sadness, anger, nervousness, fear, envy) and invite pupils to write examples of when they have felt each emotion. Some pupils may not wish to talk or write about their feelings and emotions, but sensitively encourage them where you can. Some pupils may feel happier discussing this within their peer group.

Invite pupils to share ideas if they would like.

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Activity 4

Explain that in today's lesson, we will be planning and writing acrostic poems to describe feelings and emotions. This could be about when they have felt a particular feeling or emotion, or if pupils wish to write a less personal poem, it could be a general description.

Look at the example acrostic poems to identify the features of these (a word is spelt out, usually at the beginning of each line, which shows the title and / or theme of the poem).

Which poem do they like? Why?

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Activity 5 – writing

Pupils should choose a feeling or emotion to create their own acrostic poem. Use the planning sheet to collect ideas, writing how this might look, smell, sound and feel, and times where this feeling or emotions could be felt.

Templates are provided for pupils to use as required, as well as blank writing paper for those who choose a different word for their poem.

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Activity 6

Give pupils the opportunity to perform their poems to allow them to read their writing aloud to others.

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Further activities

Pupils could rewrite their poem, practising handwriting, for display or to create a class anthology of poems.

Create a feelings display in the classroom where pupils can show their feelings on arrival or throughout the day.