

Preparation

- Download the PowerPoint that complements this activity. Alternatively you can watch the Little Dreamers video with your class, pausing where necessary for them to participate and write their ideas. It follows the same structure as this lesson plan. Bookmark the video:
<https://youtu.be/E7TsHdQfPBA>
- Each pupil will need a copy of the Little Dreamers entry form/planning sheet, which you can download from our website, photocopy or we can post as many as you need.
- Read through this lesson – each section has a guide to how long it should take, but you can adapt this depending on the needs of your pupils.
- All competition information and resources can be downloaded/requested at:
www.youngwriters.co.uk/writing-resources

Introduction Slides 2-4 (5 minutes)

Explain to your pupils that today they will be writing an acrostic poem for Young Writers' Little Dreamers competition.

Main Teaching Activity

Activity Name	Slide Reference	Activity Details
What is an Acrostic Poem? (5 minutes)	Slides 5-6	Explain to your class that an acrostic is a poem where the first letter of each line spells a word when it's read downwards. Show them the example and see if they can identify the acrostic word.
Write a Class Acrostic (10 minutes)	Slides 7-10	Tell your pupils you will first write an acrostic together as a class using the word 'dream'. Write the word downwards on the board, or you can use slide 9 which has a blank template. Ask pupils to give you words, phrases or sentences that could describe anything about a dream that start with any of the letters in the word 'dream'. You can ask them for one letter at a time in order, or take suggestions randomly as they think of them. Choose one for each letter and fill it in on the board or on slide 9. Read out your finished poem and congratulate them on creating their first acrostic poem! You can then show them our example.
Planning an Acrostic Poem (15 minutes)	Slides 11-16	Your pupils can now start to plan their own acrostic poem on their planning sheet. Step 1 – Read out the acrostic poem ideas. Your pupils should choose one and finish the sentence with a word of their choice. This is their acrostic word. Alternatively, you can let them choose any word, or assign an acrostic word to tie in to your class topic. The theme is open so they can write about anything. Ask them to write down their word in box 1 of their planning sheet. Step 2 – Ask pupils to draw a picture of their poem topic. Step 3 – Ask pupils to write down any words, phrases or sentences in box 3 to describe their word. They will need at least one idea for each letter in their acrostic word.

Main Teaching Activity

Activity Name	Slide Reference	Activity Details
Let's Get Writing! (15 minutes)	Slides 17-20	It's now time for your pupils to create their acrostic poem. We recommend they write it out as a draft so they can make changes before writing their final version on the entry form. Step 4 – Ask your pupils to write their acrostic word down the side of their page. Step 5 – Pupils should look at their words and phrases in box 3. Do any of them start with the same letter as any in their acrostic word? They can write these in to start building up their poem. For any lines that are left over, they will need to add words or turn their words and phrases into longer sentences to help them fit their acrostic. Check out the 'Alphabet Word Bank' available to download to help with some ideas for each letter!
Peer Assessment (5 minutes)	Slide 21	Ask pupils to work in pairs and read their poems out to each other. Can they say something they like about it and something that can be improved? Give them a few minutes to make any changes or add in more descriptive words.
Time to Enter!	Slide 22	Make sure each pupil puts their name on their entry form, and then collect them in ready to send off to us! We hope your class enjoyed this activity - we can't wait to read their poems!

Notes

This activity takes approximately 55 minutes but you can adapt each section based on the needs of your class. Alternatively the planning can be done in class (35 minutes) and the poem writing set as homework.

- Pupils can work in pairs or small groups and have an adult's assistance.
- Poems can be scribed.
- Challenge more advanced pupils by asking them to include imagery such as similes or metaphors.



★ **DREAM** ★
★ **BIG WITH** ★
★ **POETRY** ★

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