Bio Poems
Made Easy

Laura Candler
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Bio Poems Made Easy

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 they can write about famous historical figures or story characters. Pages 3 though 6 in this packet deal specifically with Bio Poems about oneself, but I’ve also included planning pages for historical figures and characters. After you introduce the basic Bio Poem format, students should easily be able to create their own poems from those planning pages. Allow students to change the writing prompts as needed according to their selected topics.

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 gallery at www.wordle.net may have inappropriate Wordles, so don’t allow your students to search the site.)
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 (YOU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives that Describe You</th>
<th>Lover of . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who feels . . .</td>
<td>Who wonders . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who fears . .</td>
<td>Who would like to . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is able to . .</td>
<td>Who dreams . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name ______________________
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 __________________________________________________________
Wordle Poem Example

Dedicated, far, away, lands, far, cats, chip, may, kayaking, like, life, creative, wonderful, dreams, discover, black, planet, happy, books, Lumber, distant, River, peaceful, mountains, love, reading, year, warm, joy, day, destroying, chocolate, great, feelings, Laura, Lumber, students.
# Bio Poem Planning

**Historical Figure** ___________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives that Describe Person</th>
<th>Lover of . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who wondered . . .</td>
<td>Who dreamed of . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who learned . . .</td>
<td>Who discovered . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who made a difference by . .</td>
<td>Who is remembered for . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name __________________________

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives that Describe Person</th>
<th>Dates in office . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who dreamed of . . .</td>
<td>Who said . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who was determined to . . .</td>
<td>Who refused to . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who made a difference by . .</td>
<td>Who is remembered for . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Bio Poem Planning**

Name ______________________

Character _________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives that Describe Person</th>
<th>Lover of . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who wonders . . .</td>
<td>Who knows . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who fears . . .</td>
<td>Who is able to . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who dreams of . .</td>
<td>Who _____________ . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Teaching Multiple Intelligence Theory
Bingo Showdown: Confusing Words Review
Character Bio Reports
Analyzing Character Traits
Powerful Poetry Combo
Plural Noun Showdown
Sentence Go Round
Writing Powerful Poetry

Geometry: Exploring the Basics
Math Stations for Middle Grades (3-8)
Mastering Math Facts
Polygon Explorations
Polygon Explorations (Smartboard)
Place Value Spinner Games
Fraction Spinner Games
Simplify and Snap Fraction Game
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