

# Biography or Autobiography

CCSS: SL 5.4.b: Memorize and recite a poem or section of a speech or historical document using rate, expression, and gestures appropriate to the selection.

## Assignment

You are going to create two different types of poetry (acrostic and diamante) that pay tribute to the important/famous person whose biography or autobiography you just finished. Please use the samples to help you out! If you would prefer to type the poems, please do so. **YOU WILL BE MEMORIZING AND PERFORMING EITHER YOUR ACROSTIC OR DIAMANTE POEM ON THE DAY THE REPORT IS DUE.** No notes will be allowed.

## Procedure

- Step 1: Ask your teacher for a piece of construction paper to use as your presentation board.
- Step 2: Decide if you will neatly print or type your poems.
- Step 3: The first poem is an acrostic. To begin, write your subject's first and last names down the left side of a piece of rough draft paper. **Use creative lettering!**
- Step 4: Use each letter as the beginning of either a word or phrase that relates to the person. You may not use boring words such as: nice, kind, smart, etc. Use a thesaurus to find something more interesting. For example:

### Abe Lincoln

**A**vid reader

**B**rave

**E**mancipator

**L**og cabin

**I**ndiana and Illinois

**N**oteworthy president

**C**ivil war

**O**pen to new ideas

## Lawyer

### Non-discriminating

- Step 5: Copy your poem onto your final draft paper! Use pencil first, then trace over it with skinny **Sharpie or marker**. (If you are typing, this is already taken care of.)
- Step 6: Using a second piece of rough draft paper, you are going to brainstorm a diamante poem. **You may not use the same words or phrases that you used in the acrostic poem**. These poems look like a diamond when finished. The format is as follows:

Line 1: person's first name

Line 2: two adjectives that describe the person

Line 3: three -ing words related to the person

Line 4: four nouns related to the person

Line 5: three words that describe how the person felt or the things they did

Line 6: two more adjectives

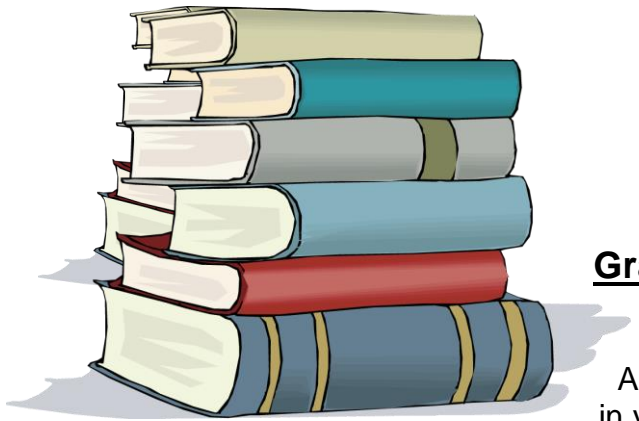
Line 7: person's last name

Here is an example:

George  
wise, brave  
fighting, leading, thinking,  
general, president, farmer, leader  
planned, commanded, planted,  
kind, humble  
Washington

- Step 7: Copy your poem onto your final draft paper. Again, use pencil first, then trace with **marker or Sharpie**. (If you are typing, this is already taken care of.)
- Step 8: Take both poems and glue them onto the presentation paper provided. **Neatness is important**. Do not leave excess glue globs or dirty fingerprints on your final draft.
- Step 9: Write the **title** of the book you read at the **top** of the presentation paper, then put **your name** and the **author's name** at the **bottom**.
- **Step 10: MEMORIZE ONE OF YOUR POEMS!**

- **Step 11: Review the grading checklist to ensure you have completed all parts of the assignment.**



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## Grading

The checklist below will be used to grade your project. Please be sure to check that you have ALL the required pieces, and that you are turning in your BEST WORK.

| Requirements   | Points Possible | Points Earned |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Content</b>   |                 |               |
| Your name, the book's title, and the author's name are written in the <u>proper places</u> on the presentation paper           | 5               |               |
| The acrostic poem is written to both the person's first and last names, which are creatively lettered and properly spelled     | 5               |               |
| The words or phrases in your acrostic poem relate to the life of your person   | 15              |               |
| The diamante poem follows the directions   | 10              |               |
| The words or phrases in your diamante poem relate to the life of your person and do not repeat words used in the acrostic poem | 15              |               |
| <b>Format</b>  |                 |               |
| Spelling is correct  | 5               |               |
| Capitalization is correct  | 5               |               |
| Proper punctuation is used   | 5               |               |
| <b>Appearance</b>  |                 |               |
| Poems appear neat  | 5               |               |
| All text is neatly printed in ink, or typed  | 5               |               |
| <b>Presentation</b>  |                 |               |
| You memorized your poem and delivered it with a strong, confident voice.   | 20              |               |
| <b>Punctuality</b>   |                 |               |
| Assignment is turned in early or on time   | 5               |               |

|                  |                                       |  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Comments:</b> | <b>Total Possible:<br/>100 points</b> |  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|