



MAKE ART  
ANYWAY.

ART ACTIVITY  
INSTRUCTIONS:  
**ABECADARIAN POEM**

@ARTSCORPS

#MAKEARTANYWAY

# ABECADARIAN POEM

*Duration:* 30 minutes

*Age Range:* K-5

*Creator:* Meredith Arena

*Contact:*

meredith.arena@artscorps.org

*Materials:* Paper & Pen

*Vocabulary:*

Abecedarian

Kestrels

Larks

Quetzals

Xylem

Xylophage

Zorillas

Can you write your own Abecedarian poem? Here are some ideas:

- Things in your house or people in your family.
- Or maybe each line can be about something you want for your future.
- Or each line can be about something something really great about yourself.

I wrote a poem to my students because I can't see them right now.

Start with a piece of paper and write all the letters of the alphabet from top to bottom:

A	_____
B	_____
C	_____
D	_____
E	_____
F	_____
G	_____
H	_____
I	_____
J	_____
K	_____
L	_____
M	_____
N	_____
O	_____
P	_____
Q	_____
R	_____
S	_____
T	_____
U	_____
V	_____
W	_____
X	_____
Y	_____
Z	_____

If you don't feel ready to write a poem, just make a list.

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#CreativeSolidarity

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Want an extra challenge? See if you can get every other line to rhyme like in this poem, line 1 rhymes with line 3 (tracks, backs) and line 2 rhymes with line 4 (lodge, dodge).

1. Ants use antennae to seek out their **tracks**,
2. Beavers gnaw trees for their **lodge**,
3. Camels store food in the humps on their **backs**,
4. Dragonflies dazzle and **dodge**,

**Here is the poem I read by Avis Harley:**

*Zoophabet: Ants to Zorillas*  
*from the Poetry Foundation*

Ants use antennae to seek out their tracks,  
Beavers gnaw trees for their lodge,  
Camels store food in the humps on their backs,  
Dragonflies dazzle and dodge,  
Elephant trunks furnish watery flings,  
Flamingoes eat shrimp to keep pink;  
Grasshoppers' ears appear under their wings,  
Hummingbirds hover to drink,  
Inchworms advance with a rear-ended loop,  
Jellyfish sometimes can sting,  
Kestrels catch lunch with a lightning-like swoop,  
Larks love to warble and sing,  
Moles tunnel intricate malls underground,  
Newts thrive in ponds filled with weed,  
Owls like to swivel their heads right around,  
People can learn how to read,  
Quetzals are gorgeous in feathery dress,  
Rats have acquired a bad label,  
Seahorse appears like a figure in chess,  
Tortoise found fame in a fable,  
Umber-birds thrive in the African wild,  
Vipers can poison their prey,  
Worms turn the soil when the climate is mild,  
Xylophage chews wood all day,  
Yaks grow in horns that are gracefully curled,  
Zorillas are striped black and white;  
each zooabet creature is part of this world:  
unique, with its own copyright!

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Here is my poem:

*My Students*

Always telling a story or a joke  
Bringing me a smile from ear to ear  
Cantos y bailes en el salon y recreo  
Drawings passed between peers  
Excelente en contarme so many cuentos  
Feeling feelings like mice or like hawks  
Good in their hearts siempre muy buenos  
Humming tunes while the teacher talks  
Invencibles en sus amistades  
Joyful justice in their play  
Kinships that move across languages  
Laughter throughout the long day  
Mis estudiantes vienen de muchos paises  
Names short, medium and long  
Orgullosos de su multitud de raices  
Proud of their various songs  
Quitanse de sus lamentos!  
Rap, sing, stretch or draw  
Soplan un cancioncito  
The one that makes you feel awe  
Underneath all of your boredom  
Vayanse muy profundo  
Way down into your ecosystem  
Xylem that nurtures your mundo  
You and you and you are the seeds, roots and flower  
Zumbando abejas with so much power!

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