



MAKE ART
ANYWAY.

ART ACTIVITY
INSTRUCTIONS:
ABECADARIAN POEM

@ARTSCORPS

#MAKEARTANYWAY

ABECADARIAN POEM

Duration: 30 minutes

Age Range: Grades 3 and higher

Creator: Meredith Arena

Contact:
integration@artscorps.org

Materials: Paper & Pen

Vocabulary:
Abecedarian
Kestrels
Larks
Quetzals
Xylem
Xylophage
Zorillas

An abecedarian poem is one in which the first letter of the first word on each line goes in the order of the alphabet. See the examples on pages 3 and 4. Here are some ideas for themes. Perhaps each line could be about:

- things in your house
- people in your family, neighborhood, or school
- something you want in your future
- qualities or quirks you love about other people, or yourself

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

Use the space below to write your poem. You can also take a blank piece of paper and write the letters in alphabetical order, 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 _____

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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 the poem below. 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**,

Zoophabet: Ants to Zorillas

by Avis Harley

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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Arts Corps Teaching Artist Meredith Arena, who teaches at Mount View Elementary, wrote this poem for her students.

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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