ART ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

ABECADARIAN POEM

@ARTSCORPS

#MAKEARTANYWAY
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.
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!
**ABECADARIAN POEM**

*When sharing this resource, please cite Arts Corps and any authors, artists and creators listed.*

**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

---

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!