



# Poetry Warm Ups

## Acrostic Poems

**Pauline**

*Poetry*

*Art*

*USA*

*Love*

*Interest*

*Nature*

*Explore*

*Pauline, grade 5*

**William**

*Whales*

*Ice cream*

*Lions*

*Love*

*Imagination*

*Apples*

*Mama*

*William, grade K*

These acrostic poems are about a subject the poets know well – themselves. The title of an acrostic poem is the subject. Each letter of the title is the first letter of each line of the poem. These name poems reveal something about the person and their personality.

There are two ways of writing this poem. You can write only one word on a line as a list or, you can write your poem as a sentence or two.

**Write an acrostic poem to introduce yourself.**

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# Haiku

**The autumn wind blows,  
Calling the leaves on the ground  
To join him in dance.**



Longfellow wrote about happy times with his daughters in “The Children’s Hour.” He also wrote “The Castle Builder” for his son, Erny. Charley loved an adventure, lived in Japan for a while, and posed for this photo as a Samurai warrior.

The haiku originated in Japan. It is an unrhymed poem made up of three lines and 17 syllables. The first and third lines have five syllables each, and the second line has seven.

Traditional Japanese haiku describe something in nature, with reference to one of the seasons. Although the poems are brief, they convey much feeling.

From  
[www.MaineMemory.net](http://www.MaineMemory.net)  
item 15892, courtesy of  
Longfellow National  
Historic Site

**Write a haiku about your favorite season.**

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## Haiku

Samples from the Family Day at the Longfellow House, September 14, 2003

The wind blows softly,  
The quiet way of nature  
Reveals its beauty.  
Sophie, grade 3

My mom likes watching,  
Stealing bases, running, score!  
Baseball is such fun!  
Zach, grade 2

The leaves are falling  
Green, yellow, and silver grey  
Fall begins today.  
Elie, grade 6

School buses and orange pumpkins,  
Falling leaves, picking apples,  
Fall is drawing near.  
Kaela, grade 5

Beneath Henry's tree  
I sit and write poetry,  
Family Day 2003.  
Gary, grandpa

Here I go again,  
Passing, catching, shooting, score  
Dribbling down the court.  
Karen, mom

## Cinquain Poems



This poem was written and illustrated about Julie's favorite historical figure.

**Line one:** subject of poem

**Line two:** two descriptive adjectives

**Line three:** three participles (action words ending in -ing)

**Line four:** phrase expressing opinion or emotion

**Line five:** one word (synonym for line one)

**Write and illustrate a cinquain poem about your favorite historical hero.**