

Getting to Know You (4 possibilities)

Bio-Poem: Use this formula as a guide for your poem. Include more or fewer details as needed; details may be one word or a phrase. Consider carefully who you are and what words best express that. Try several words to see what sounds best and makes sense of who you are. Poems don't need to rhyme but they should "sing and flow."

Line 1 First name
Line 2 Four words that tell about you
Line 3 Son/daughter of...(something about your origin)
Line 4 Lover of...(several people or ideas)
Line 5 Who feels...(3 feelings and when you feel them)
Line 6 Who needs...(several things, qualities, etc.)
Line 7 Who gives...(several things, qualities, etc.)
Line 8 Who fears...(3 fears)
Line 9 Who would like to see...(several people, events, etc.)
Line 10 Resident of...(wherever you feel you reside)
Line 11 Last name

Variation of Bio-Poem: This is a good formula to know about because it can work for you personally, and it also can be used to present historical or literary characters for projects or memory devices in various venues.

Line 1 First name
Line 2 Title that fits the person
Line 3 Several words to describe the person
Line 4 Lover of...(several people or ideas)
Line 5 Who believed...
Line 6 Who wanted...(several things or ideas)
Line 7 Who used...(several methods, things, ideas, etc)
Line 8 Who gave...
Line 9 Who said...(a significant quote)
Line 10 Last name

I Am Poem: With this format you may also respond with words or phrases and add as much or little to the stems as you need for sound and sense. As you work with this format you may discover a focus emerging about your life. If this happens, work with the progression and wording of your poem to develop it carefully.

I am... (2 special characteristics you have)
I wonder... (something you are actually curious about)
I hear... (can be actual or imaginary things)
I see... (can be actual or imaginary or conceptual)
I want... (an actual desire)
I am... (repeat the first line or make a variation of it if you like)

I pretend... (something you actually pretend to do or feel)
I feel... (deal with emotion here, not concrete touching)
I touch... (again, go for concept and imagination, not literal touch)
I worry... (something that really bothers you)
I cry... (can be related to sadness or a slogan...)
I am... (again, repeat or variation)

I understand... (something you know is true and that you accept)
I say... (a belief, a slogan, quote, etc.)
I dream... (something you actually dream or long for)
I try... (something you really make an effort about)
I hope... (something you actually wish for)
I am... (repeat first line or make a final variation statement)

Autobiographical Poetry: Consider the following questions to help you construct a poem about yourself. This format offers a bit more wiggle room for you to experiment with line length as well as sound because you will construct your sentences yourself and arrange them into whatever shape and size you want your poem to be. I have included a sample of one of these poems so you can see how this format can become a poem.

1. When were you born? (not necessarily a year, but a special era, a time when something special was going on..)
2. Describe your parents...survivors of _____, fighters for (or against) _____, believers in _____
3. How did you get your name?
4. What did a family member (mother, grandfather, sibling, etc.) teach you?
5. What did another person tell or teach you?
6. What did you learn from yet another person or event?
7. When you leave HarrellLand this year (or PKY later, or home, or what ever milestone you wish to use) what do you expect to accomplish or to become?
8. Describe yourself with the two stems...I am a _____, a _____
9. What or where would an imaginative friend say you came from?
10. What are two things you long for or crave? (Diction note: You long for something but simply crave, not crave for)

Beatriz Badikian

i was born in
the year of the cat
my parents are immigrants
a life made of beginnings
Dante* gave me my name
by way of my father
my father told me all about ancient lands
and lost civilizations
my mother dressed me in red
(my hair was too straight for her)
my father told me I would be a speaker...a leader...a fighter
i left my parents' home by way of divorce
i am an island
a collector of postcards
matches
people
Sandra says i have metamorphized from seagulls
i have a craving for
wide open spaces
and poems that don't rhyme

*Dante is an Italian poet who wrote *The Divine Comedy* in which a beautiful young woman named Beatrice leads the hero to Heaven

I will also put several interesting bio-poem samples from previous years on the overhead to inspire you. You may check the bio-poem *Fame and Glory* book as well. Experiment with as many of these poems about yourself as you wish, then **turn in your polished and typed favorite one by _____**. Please ask any questions you have now. I look forward to getting to know you through personal poetry. I have done this assignment, so here is my poems to help you know something about me:

