LESSON PLAN TITLE: Acrostic Poetry

Writer-in-Residence: Christiana Castillo
Grade Level: 1st-6th
Model Works Used: Acrostic Poems By Rey Hinojosa and Christiana Castillo
Literary Learning objective(s): Students will be able to write their own acrostic poems.
Themes: Poetic form
MDE/SEL Standards: Students can identify literary devices, structures, and themes
Materials Needed: Pen or pencil, highlighter (optional), poem examples, poetry brainstorm, acrostic poem worksheet, white paper to draw on

Opening Activity:

Draw a big circle with one of your pointer fingers. Then take a BIG step in the circle. You have now gone through the Poetry Portal and you are in the Poetry World! In the Poetry World, anything is possible and anything can happen!

You are now in the Poetry World and you have turned into your favorite animal! Pretend to be your favorite animal.

Pre-Discussion:

Acrostic poetry is a special type of poetry that spells out the topic of a poem with the first letter of each line. Acrostic poetry is used to describe and celebrate our favorite things.

Model Poem Discussion:

Read the attached poems. Highlight or underline the first letter of each poem before you read each poem. What do the letters spell out?

Prewriting:

Fill our Brainstorming Worksheet attached.
Remember, adjectives are descriptive words for nouns. A noun is a person, place, or thing. Adjectives describe nouns using colors, numbers, and our five senses.
Writing Prompt:

Create two acrostic poems. The poems can be about absolutely anything! If you have a hard time picking a topic write about your favorite animals or favorite foods. Write your topic on the lines going down the page before you start writing your poem. The longer the word that your topic is, the more challenging it will be to write an Acrostic Poem. Try to start off with a three to four letter topic and then keep challenging yourself. Use the worksheet to write your poems.

Share / Reflect:

After you finish writing your poems draw a picture to compliment your poem. If possible share your poem with a family member or over the phone with a loved one. How did you choose your topic when writing your Acrostic poem? Was it challenging to write an Acrostic poem? What was fun about it? Would you write an Acrostic poem again?

Supplemental Materials
Poems by Christiana Castillo and Rey Hinojosa, Brainstorming Sheet, Poem Worksheet

Check/Highlight all that apply

- Text by a contemporary/diverse author
- Translated text
- Visual Thinking Strategies
- Close reading or other analysis
- A step of the writing process
- Planning & Reflection Strategy
- New device, concept or theme
- Social-Emotional Learning
  - Self-Management
    - Social Awareness
    - Relationship Skills
    - Responsible-Decision Making
    - Self-Awareness

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Acrostic Poem Examples

**Lovely Elephants**
By: Christiana Castillo

Even though they are quite
Large, elephants are lovely
Everytime I see one I smile
Please treat Elephants kindly
Happiness starts with elephants
And making sure they are safe
Never forget how awesome they are
They are the best
Super wonderful

**Curious Cats**
By: Christiana Castillo

Curious creatures
Always sleeping or playing
Terrific and talented animals

**Who’s A Good Boy?**
By: Rey Hinojosa

Digging
Often, but always a
Good boy

**Cat Nap**
By: Rey Hinojosa

Curled up
Another yawn
To nap

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Acrostic Brainstorming

Name:

Pick your topic: _______________________________________

List five adjectives to describe your topic:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

How does your topic make you feel?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

What does your topic do? If it's an animal, what does your topic do for fun? If it's food, how is it made?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

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Draw a picture here: