

# NEWSPAPER POETRY

## ★ EDUCATIONAL LESSON ★

NEWSPAPER STORIES ARE MAINLY PROSE  
BUT FROM THESE PAGES YOU CAN COMPOSE;  
LET THESE ACTIVITIES LEAD THE WAY:  
CREATE YOUR OWN POETIC DISPLAY!

**1** One form of poetry is called an acrostic, in which the first, last or other particular letters in a series of lines spell out a word or phrase. Find weather coverage or forecasts in *The Oklahoman* and create an acrostic based on information it includes. Example:

**H**umidity makes it **W**orse

**E**xceeding records **A**ll month

**A** broiling summer **V**acation

**T**emperatures too **E**xtrême

**2** Select a photo in this edition of *The Oklahoman* that catches your eye. First write a five-syllable caption. Then expand your caption into a haiku – a three-line poem with five syllables in the first and last lines, and seven syllables in the middle line. Example (based on a sports photo published March 8):

**A**bout to dunk ball

**B**ody reaching, muscles flexed

**C**rowd is on their feet

**3** Choose a news story in *The Oklahoman* and rewrite it as a poem. Afterward, trade poems with a classmate who used a different story. Now, without referring back to the original in the newspaper, reverse the process and write a news story based on your classmate's poem. How close to the actual stories did you each get? Would another type of poem have been more useful to your classmate?

**4** Cut out 15 to 20 words from headlines. Focus on clipping nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. When you are done, rearrange the words to craft a poem, and then paste your poem onto paper or posterboard.

**BONUS:** Hold a “poetry slam” in your classroom to perform your poems aloud. You can read an article and watch a news video about a recent poetry slam for high school students at [newsok.com/article/3444983](http://newsok.com/article/3444983).

**5** Tear out one page of this newspaper. With a thick black marker, create a poem by blacking out words and letters. The words and letters that are left will form your poem. The example to the right won *The Oklahoman*'s Blackout Poetry Contest youth category last year.



**BONUS: ENTER YOUR BLACKOUT POEM INTO THE OKLAHOMAN'S 2010  
BLACKOUT POETRY CONTEST! YOU COULD WIN AN IPOD NANO!  
FIND DETAILS ON HOW TO ENTER IN TODAY'S OKLAHOMAN AND AT [NIE.NEWSOK.COM](http://nie.newsok.com).**



THE OKLAHOMAN

Educators, for more educational classroom resources,  
visit Newspapers In Education online at [nie.newsok.com](http://nie.newsok.com).