

Bio-Poem Ideas – ED 4352 – Poetry K-12
A Lesson Plan on Integrating Social Studies and Poetry
Poetry & Canadian History

Title	Bio-Poems and Canadian History
Grade Level	All
Themes	The lesson will centre upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Researching and expressing the individualistic characteristics of a person in Canadian history✓ Using writing skills in a cross-curricular approach
Objectives	The student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Demonstrate an understanding of a specific person in Canadian history✓ Interpret the role a certain individual had in the history of the Canada
Introduction	Have students complete a Bio-Poem about themselves using the following criteria:
LINE 1:	First name
LINE 2:	Three or four adjectives that describe the person
LINE 3:	Important relationship (Daughter/son of...)
LINE 4:	Two or three things the person cares a lot about
LINE 5:	Three feelings the person experienced
LINE 6:	Three fears the person experienced
LINE 7:	Accomplishments
LINE 8:	Two or three things the person wants to experience
LINE 9:	His or her home
LINE 10:	Last name

Materials Required

1. Overhead projector; transparency sheets and overhead pens – or – chart paper and markers
2. Paper for students to use to complete their anticipatory set, notes, etc.

Process

1. After a short discussion of the anticipatory set, allow students time to research/explore the characteristics of a person in history. Book a lap-top lab or take them to a computer lab or library.
2. Show an example of what your expectations for the assignment are.
3. Allow time for students to create the Bio-Poem of their chosen Canadian historical character.

Advice

This writing exercise can be adapted to include **events** in history as well. Also, students may need to adjust the requirements of the Bio-Poem based on the information available to them.

Summary

Students will gain a better understanding of figures in Canadian history.

Activities

In addition to the Bio-Poem, have students draw a picture of the individual or event.

Notes

Students can create a Bio-Poem for each unit in history, culminating in a writing portfolio for Social Studies.

Sir John A. MacDonald

Example of Basic Biographical Information for Student Use

John Alexander Macdonald was an immigrant to Canada. Born in Glasgow, Scotland on January 11, 1815, he came with his parents to Kingston, Ontario in 1820. He practiced law for a time, but found his true vocation when, at age 29, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly. He possessed force of personality, a glib tongue and was a vigorous fighter. By 1857, he was Premier of Upper Canada.

Sir John was one of the first to embrace the idea of forming a nation out of Britain's North American colonies. Being a practical politician, he used his diplomatic skills to forge the alliances necessary to make Confederation in 1867 possible. He was, without doubt, the foremost of the Fathers of Confederation.

The rest of his political career was dominated by a vigorous effort to overcome regional differences and build a strong nation. He boldly purchased the west and won British Columbia over to Confederation. He was the driving force in the building of a transcontinental railway to tie the east to west. He pursued an economic policy that promoted development and trade within our nation.

Despite a personal life filled with difficulty and even tragedy, Sir John totally devoted himself to the building of Canada. The young politician of 1844 became the "Old Chieftain", and in June of 1891, he died in office. His legacy is our nation, Canada.

Sir John A. MacDonald

A Biopoem

Immigrant, Visionary, Guiding Hand -

A Father of Confederation and Father of our Land.

He dreamt of steam to unite the coasts,

Possessed glib tongue, strong will, and liked to boast.

Warned of southern destiny, assimilation, advancing stars

Accomplished a ribbon of unity weaving together lands afar.

His dreams were of dominion, independence, and for-now,

His Canada was more a home than this birthplace in Glasgow.

MacDonald

Mr. Sexsmith

Random Student Samples of Bio-Poems from the Students in Buffalo Grove

Jason

Athletic, daring, artistic, scientific

Relative of dad, Mitch; mom, Beth; brother, Corey

Lover of chocolate, vacations and the WWF

Who feels strongly about doing well on tests, lucky to have good friends and lucky to have a good family

Who needs respect from his brother, Bulls tickets and love from his parents

Who fears murders, poison and fire

Who gives respect, presents and love

Who would like to see Mt. Rushmore, Niagara Falls and the Superbowl live

Resident of Buffalo Grove

Melissa

Artistic, creative, musical, athletic

Relative of mom, Sue; dad, Berrie; sister, Jessica; brother, Eric

Lover of gymnastics, animals and shopping

Who feels animals shouldn't get killed, there should be no drugs and there should be peace

Who needs friends, love and respect

Who fears robbers, gangs and diseases

Who gives happiness, love and friendship

Who would like to see Hawaii, Florida and people not killing animals

Resident of Buffalo Grove

H. Mitchell

Adventurous, athletic, artistic, musical

Relative of dad, Rick; mom, Marie; sister, Johanna; brother, Jason

Lover of Nintendo 64, trumpet and sports

Who feels that people should stop killing animals, lucky to have a good education and lucky to have good medicine

Who needs love from his parents, friendship and good health

Who fears guns, wild animals and purse snatchers

Who gives respect, love and support

Who would like to see the Rocky Mountains, Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon

Resident of Buffalo Grove

Emily

Energetic, athletic, brilliant, sensitive

Relative of dad, Carl; mom, Pam; sister, Laura; brother, Zack

Lover of music, kittens and sports

Who feels lucky to be free, lucky to have friends and lucky to have a family

Who needs family, freedom and love

Who fears thieves, gangs and sharks

Who gives comfort, respect and love

Who would like to see Dominique Moiceanu, Israel and the Grand Canyon

Resident of Buffalo Grove