An acrostic poem uses the letters in a topic word to begin each line. All lines of the poem should relate to or describe the topic word.

The purpose of an acrostic poem is to show what you know about the topic you have studied, to show what you know about a character in a book you are reading, etc. You might not think of it as poetry because it doesn't rhyme, but poetry doesn't always need to rhyme.

**Example #1**: An acrostic poem using the word “FRIEND”.

F rank from my class  
R eally helped me when I got hurt. He ran to the nurse and got  
I ce for my leg  
E ven when I lost  
N elly my pet frog, his mom  
D roved us all around looking for her.

**Example #2**: An acrostic poem using the word “DEPRESSION” that describes the impact of the Great Depression.

D evastating  
E conomic collapse  
P overty strikes  
R eality grim  
E verywhere  
S avings lost  
S adness grows  
I nsecurity mounts  
O minous  
N owhere to turn

**Example #3**: An acrostic poem using the word “ANCIENT.”

A few days is considered  
N ew. When  
C enturies pass an item will be regarded as old. For an  
I tem to be seen as ancient  
E very bit of it  
N eeds  
T o be older than dirt.