Activities

Tornado Activities

Grades: 3–5

Overview
Students learn to write a poem structured around the first letter of each line—which spells out the title of the poem.

MATERIALS:
• Pencils, paper

SUGGESTED GROUPING:
• Partners or small groups
INTRODUCE students to the form of an acrostic poem. Explain that this is a poem in which the first letters of the lines read downward. Each letter forms the beginning of a word, phrase, or sentence reading across.

PROVIDE an example, such as the following:

- *Tornado*,
- *Whirling across the field.*
- *I*
- *See your funnel cloud*
- *Tearing up fence posts,*
- *Eating trees,*
- *Roaring in a loud voice.*

SUGGEST that students use the word *tornado* or another word from *Tornado* for their acrostic poems.

**Tell a Story**

**MATERIALS:**

- Paper, pencils

**SUGGESTED GROUPING:**

- Individuals

INTRODUCE the activity by reminding students that Pete told amusing stories about his dog, Tornado, to keep people’s minds off the storm.

ENCOURAGE students to think about stories they could tell about an animal. The story might be about their own pets or a story they have heard or read.
SUGGEST that students jot down notes about the story they will tell. Encourage them to practice the story so they can tell it without using their notes.
ALLOW time for a storytelling session in which students share their stories with the class.

- Subjects:
  Literature, Reading, Public Speaking, Poetry Writing