

Lesson Plan

Exploring Acrostics

Book: *Responsibility in Sports*

Series: Sports Build Character

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice exploring a topic by crafting an acrostic poem about it.

Supplies

- *Responsibility in Sports* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Responsibility in Sports* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Choose a volunteer to read pages 24 and 25, which give an explanation of what it means to be responsible:

“Responsibility usually comes down to small things. It means doing what you are supposed to do. And it means doing so without being asked. Showing responsibility means that you are reliable. Others know that you will not let them down. Being responsible prepares you for whatever happens next. This comes in handy both on and off the field.”

Responsibility is a big concept. To explore what it means, each student should write an acrostic poem. An acrostic is a type of poem in which letters in each line spell out a word or phrase. Many acrostic poems are based on a particular topic. They often use a letter from this topic word to begin each line. Each line often gives one example or idea related to the topic. Write the following poem on the whiteboard as an example:

Hope

Hold on to the idea that things can change
Opens your eyes to see all is not dark
Picks you up each time you fall
Every morning, starts again

Each line doesn't have to be a complete sentence, though it can be. The lines also do not have to rhyme.

Give each student a sheet of paper. Have students write out each letter in the word *responsibility* down the left side and begin drafting their poems. When all the students have finished writing, choose a few students to share their poems with the class.

Evaluation

Give each student one point for each line of their acrostic that starts with the correct letter and relates to the topic of responsibility, for a total of 14 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.4).