

Life-Line Poem

You have the opportunity to capture your unique personality in just 13 lines of poetry! Follow the pattern below, line by line. Your poem may be in either past **OR** present tense, as long as you **DO NOT SHIFT TENSE** within the lines. Once you start in a certain tense, stay there! Pay special attention to **PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION**. Everything **MUST** be school appropriate!

- The Pattern:
- Line 1... (Your first name)
 - Line 2... (A phrase which you believe describes you)
 - Line 3... (**FOUR** adjectives which describe you)
 - Line 4... Lover of _____ (**THREE** nouns or noun phrases)
 - Line 5... Who feels _____ (an adjective or a complete thought)
 - Line 6... Who believes _____ (your personal philosophy)
 - Line 7... Who wants _____ (**THREE** nouns or noun phrases)
 - Line 8... Who uses _____ (**THREE** nouns or noun phrases)
 - Line 9... Who gives _____ (**THREE** nouns or noun phrases)
 - Line 10... Who fears _____ (**THREE** nouns or noun phrases)
 - Line 11... Who would like _____. (finish the sentence)
 - Line 12... Who says, "_____." (a quote that expresses **YOU** best)
 - Line 13... (Your last name)

Be sure to capitalize the first word of every line, and make sure you include the correct number of items that are needed in each line. (Example: line 7 needs 3 nouns) Follow the directions inside the parenthesis. If you have too much information for one line, go down to the next and **INDENT**. Be sure to use **PARALLEL STRUCTURE and DO NOT SWITCH TENSE!!!** Type your poem and decorate it. Be creative.

Here is an example of a Life-Line poem that may trigger your poetic soul:

LAURA

Realistic idealist living in a troubled time

Optimistic, unwittingly sarcastic, sincere, gullible

Lover of nature walks, peanut M&M's, and *The Sound of Music*

Who feels that there should be world peace

Who believes in old-fashioned fun, in honesty, and in the goodness of all people

Who wants romance, no wars, and the winning numbers for next week's lottery

Who uses the bus to get to school, pens to write poetry, and the television for entertainment

Who gives hugs when needed, advice when asked, and time to charity

Who fears pain, hunger, and the end of a good book

Who would like to see a woman become President of the United States.

Who says, "If it is, it should be."

SIEDEL

What's It Like to Be Me,...

You have the opportunity to share a little bit about yourself in just 14 lines of poetry! Follow the pattern below, line by line. Your poem may be in **either past OR present tense**, as long as you **DO NOT SHIFT TENSE** within the lines. Once you start in a certain tense, stay there. Everything **MUST be school appropriate!** Now, write a poem using the following format.

Stanza #1

- *Step #1:* Use the following sentence as both the title and the first line:
What's it like to be me, (insert your first name here)?
- *Step #2:* Take the second word of the above sentence and use it to start the next line in your poem.
- *Step #3:* Now, take the third word of the sentence and use it to start the third line of your poem. This sentence should use a **simile** (a comparison using "like" or "as").
- *Steps #4:* Follow the same pattern for words four (4) through seven (7).

Stanza #2

- *Step #5:* Skip a line and begin the new stanza.
- *Step #6:* Repeat steps #1-4 for lines eight (8) through fourteen (14).

Upon completion, you should have a fourteen-line poem. For each stanza, read the first word of each line—going down. These words should be the same as those that comprise your title!

Be sure to capitalize the first word of every line, and make sure you include the items that are needed in each line (**EXAMPLE** lines #3 & #6 require a simile). If you have too much information for one line, go down to the next and **INDENT**. Be sure to **AVOID SWITCHING TENSE!!!** Type your poem and decorate it. Be creative.

EXAMPLE:

What's it Like to Be Me, Christina?

What's it like to be me, Christina?
It must be a life of frustration, living in a world that so often
 abuses grammar.
Like someone desperately pushing a boulder up a steep
 mountain...only
To find that a carelessly placed comma has rolled it down again.
Be *reasonable*?
Me? I'll never surrender; I'll fight the good fight, until
Christina has conquered the abuses of wordcraft!

What's it like to be me, Christina?
It must be exciting to watch so many minds blossom as they
 experience Shakespeare for the very first time.
Like rose buds unfolding each of their leaves in order
To drink in the warmth of the sun until they will
Be, at last, fully in bloom just for
Me. Of course, as the years pass, they will lend their beauty to
 others as well but for many
Christina paved the way!