



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

ALPHABET POETRY

★ Using the familiar ABC's, poet Paul West has given us alphabet poetry. The traditional arrangement of the ABC's provides the framework for the creative writer who focuses on a particular topic, selects words to capture that topic and arranges the words in ABC order. The final step is the decision about how many words to place on a particular line. Using the strategy suggested for personal poetry (p. 9), some very pleasing free verse can be produced. These poems enjoy a broad range of topic resources and tonal expressions. Here are two examples which focus on some things very common in our environment.

Shoes

Accents, big
 clumsy, dirty, elegant
 fashionable, grand heels
 interesting,
 jive, kinky
 loafers, messy,
 nifty, old, pointy
 queer,
 ridiculous sneakers
 toes up
 vamps wide
 xceptional, yellow
 zany.

Food

Apples
 bubbly corn dishes
 eating favorites
 greedy helpings
 ices
 juicy kumquat
 luscious melons
 nuts, oranges, peelings
 quiche
 ripe strawberries, tacos
 unlimited vegetables
 weiners
 xcellent, yummy zucchini.

When you come to x or z you may use poetic license and form a word that has the sound of the letter in it as in "xcellent" above. You may also create a nonsense word if you are really in trouble.



