



## The Acrostic Poem

Typically, an acrostic poem uses the letters of a word to form the first letter of every line of the poem. It was popular in medieval times for poems written to patrons or about saints and can be used as a mnemonic to aid memory. Multifunctional!

So, why not play around writing acrostic poems this Christmas – maybe using the names of family members or friends?

Or make up a load of nonsense:

### Acrostic

A re you ready to  
C reate a poem whose  
R hymes make you  
O riginal – not yesterday's news  
S ing to those moments of *temps perdu*  
T ickle the sum of your hypotenuse  
I ncriminate last year's annoying cuckoo  
C lock and lead you to finally find your muse?

However, you could stretch your brain cells further and have the letters form the last letter of every line – this form is called a telestich.

Paul Hansford cleverly created a combined acrostic and telestich in his poem 'Stroud' (Wikipedia, 10.12.21) – (perhaps a repost to Betjeman's friendly bombs?)

S et among hills in the midst of five valley S,  
T his peaceful little market town we inhabi T  
R efuses (vociferously!) to be a conforme R.  
O nce home of the cloth it gave its name t O,  
U phill and down again its streets lead yo U.  
D espite its faults it leaves us all charme D.

Finally, there is the alphabetical acrostic or abecedarius where the first letter of each line follows the letters of the alphabet in order.

*Fran Reader*