Biopoem Strategy

Measure for Measure

Purpose: The Biopoem is a writing exercise designed to help writers synthesize their learning about a subject – a person, place, thing, concept or event. The Biopoem follows a set pattern, making it simple even for beginning writers to complete as they explore their ideas. The students will choose one of the main characters to write a Biopoem about before we read the final, fifth, act of the play. The poem will be started in class, but assigned as homework. The poems will be read in class the following day, helping the students get into the mindset of each character prior to the grand finale.

Directions:

Step One –
Either assign students to a character, or let them choose one from the following list: The Duke, Angelo, Claudio, Isabella, Mariana, Juliet.

Step Two –
Distribute Biopoem directions to students. Explain that students should follow the pattern, filling everything in according to how the character would be up to this point in the story. Warn students that their poems will be read aloud in the class the next day.

Example of Personal Biopoem:

MARJA

Idealistic, fun-loving, stubborn, tenacious
Daughter of loving parents
Lover of books, music and travel
Who feels hope, faith and love
Who needs to see what is good, to recognize what is dangerous, to go forward with diligence
Who fears failure, hate, rejection
Who gives her love, her effort and her soul
Who would like to see equal opportunity, smiles on the faces of children, trust in the eyes of her neighbor.
Resident of Provo, Utah in body, Resident of Los Angeles, California and L’viv, Ukraine in heart.
Rawlings

Assessment: After students read their poems aloud, asking about why they chose certain words or phrases will help students analyze even further the mindsets of each character. Their poems and discussion will show how well they understand what is going on.
Biopoem

Measure for Measure

Directions: You will write an 11-lined poem about one of the main characters from Measure for Measure. Each line should consist of the following information:

Line 1. First Name
Line 2. Four traits that describe character
Line 3. Relative (brother, sister, daughter, etc.) of __________
Line 4. Lover of __________ (list three things or people)
Line 5. Who feels __________ (three items)
Line 6. Who needs __________ (three items)
Line 7. Who fears __________ (three items)
Line 8. Who gives __________ (three items)
Line 9. Who would like to see __________ (three items)
Line 10. Resident of __________
Line 11. Last Name

Think of the character about whom you are writing. Write each line accordingly.