Acrostic Poem Template: Letter-Column Frame with Line Guides

Complete worked example / separate answer key

A frame uses the theme word RIVER, five rows. The measured guide length is 100 mm and the line height is 9 mm with a midline 4 mm above the baseline. Draft one line for the row letter V that begins with V and fits the guide.

Answer: Vines climb high. The line begins with V, uses lowercase bodies inside the 4 mm x-height band, and has 17 characters counting letters, spaces, and the period, which fits a 100 mm guide at the stated hypothetical 9 mm line height. Count: V-i-n-e-s (5) + space (1) + c-l-i-m-b (5) + space (1) + h-i-g-h (4) + period (1) = 17.

Reason: The row letter V is the first character. The draft is checked against the measured guide length and the baseline-to-midline band. The character count uses one convention throughout: letters, spaces, and punctuation each count as one character. The fit is an estimate based on the hypothetical measurements, not a fixed rule.

Check: Count every character including spaces and the period, confirm the first character is V, and check that three lowercase bodies sit between the baseline and the midline.

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Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A frame uses the theme word LAMP, four rows. The measured guide length is 90 mm. Draft one line for the row letter A that begins with A and stays within the guide. Describe the line in text; no image is provided.

Answer: A moth waits. The line begins with A and has 13 characters counting letters, spaces, and the period, which fits a 90 mm guide at a hypothetical 9 mm line height. Count: A(1) + space(1) + m-o-t-h(4) + space(1) + w-a-i-t-s(5) + period(1) = 13.

Reason: The row letter A is the first character. The draft is checked against the measured guide length and the baseline-to-midline band, using the same character-counting convention as the worked example. Count: A(1) space(2) m-o-t-h(6) space(7) w-a-i-t-s(12) period(13).

Check: Confirm the first character is A, count every character including spaces and the period, and check three lowercase bodies against the baseline and midline.

Task 2

A frame uses the theme word STONE, five rows. The measured guide length is 110 mm. Draft one line for the row letter T that begins with T and fits the guide. Describe the line in text.

Answer: Tall trees sway. The line begins with T and has 18 characters counting letters, spaces, and the period, which fits a 110 mm guide at a hypothetical 9 mm line height. Count: T(1) + space(1) + t-a-l-l(4) + space(1) + t-r-e-e-s(5) + space(1) + s-w-a-y(4) + period(1) = 18.

Reason: The row letter T anchors the line. The character count uses the same convention as the worked example, and the x-height band is checked for lowercase bodies. Count: T(1) space(2) t-a-l-l(6) space(7) t-r-e-e-s(12) space(13) s-w-a-y(17) period(18).

Check: Confirm the first character is T, count every character including spaces and the period, and read the line aloud to check legibility.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A frame uses the theme word CLOUD, five rows. The measured guide length is 80 mm. Draft one line for the row letter C that begins with C and fits the guide. Describe the line in text.

Answer: Cool air. The line begins with C and has 9 characters counting letters, spaces, and the period, which fits an 80 mm guide at a hypothetical 9 mm line height. Count: C(1) + o-o-l(3) + space(1) + a-i-r(3) + period(1) = 9.

Reason: The row letter C is the first character. The draft is shortened to fit the measured guide, and the x-height band is checked using the same counting convention as the worked example. Count: C(1) o-o-l(4) space(5) a-i-r(8) period(9).

Check: Confirm the first character is C, count every character including spaces and the period, and check that no lowercase body crosses the midline or baseline.

Task 4

A frame uses the theme word BIRD, four rows. The measured guide length is 95 mm. Draft one line for the row letter I that begins with I and fits the guide. Describe the line in text.

Answer: In hedges. The line begins with I and has 10 characters counting letters, spaces, and the period, which fits a 95 mm guide at a hypothetical 9 mm line height. Count: I(1) + n(1) + space(1) + h-e-d-g-e-s(6) + period(1) = 10.

Reason: The row letter I anchors the line. The draft is checked against the measured guide and the baseline-to-midline band, using the same counting convention as the worked example. Count: I(1) n(2) space(3) h-e-d-g-e-s(9) period(10).

Check: Confirm the first character is I, count every character including spaces and the period, and ask a second reader to read the line aloud.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Answer sheet: model lines for RIVER

Model lines for RIVER, one per row, each beginning with the row letter. Other valid lines exist; rubric checks structure, not a single correct wording.

Model lines for RIVER (one valid set; other valid lines exist):

R — Rivers run wide.

I — In reeds they hide.

V — Vines climb high.

E — Every bend is new.

R — Ripples reach the shore.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Structural rubric key

Qualitative key: rubric checks structure and legibility, not a single correct wording.

Rubric key (qualitative):

1. Letter column spells RIVER top to bottom.

2. Every row has a baseline and a midline; lowercase bodies sit in the x-height band.

3. Each poem line begins with its row letter.

4. Lines fit within the measured guide length without crossing the margin.

5. Title stays inside the measured title band and does not overlap the first row. 6. Poem is legible to a second reader; letter style is consistent across rows. Any letter style is valid if it respects the baseline and x-height band.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The letter column spells the theme word correctly from top to bottom.
- [ ] Every row has a baseline and a midline, and the x-height band is respected for lowercase bodies.
- [ ] Each poem line begins with its row letter.
- [ ] Lines fit within the measured guide length without crossing the margin.
- [ ] The title stays inside the measured title band and does not overlap the first row.
- [ ] The poem is legible to a second reader, and the letter style is consistent across rows.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?