

## Biopoem Strategy for *My Name Is Asher Lev*

### **Purpose of the Strategy**

The purpose of a biopoem is to help students relate with the characters about whom they are reading. Teachers can also use biopoems to help their students think more deeply about places, objects, concepts, events, or anything else to which the poem can be applied. At the same time, because biopoems follow a specific pattern, they can help student who don't consider themselves writers develop their own literary talent.

### **Rationale**

Because the characters in *My Name is Asher Lev* are so complex, having students create biopoems would be extremely effective in helping them understand the motives behind the characters' actions. When they understand who the characters are, they are enabled to understand why they do things the way they do.

### **Directions**

Have students complete this strategy when they are far enough in their reading to have some grasp of the characters in the novel. Begin by creating a model biopoem with the students on an overhead projector so that they get an idea of how the format works. Then have them create their own poems. The format is as follows:

- Line 1: (first name)
- Line 2: (Four traits that describe the character)
- Line 3: (Father, Son, Sister, etc. . .) of \_\_\_\_\_
- Line 4: Lover of \_\_\_\_\_ (list three items)
- 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)

### **Example:**

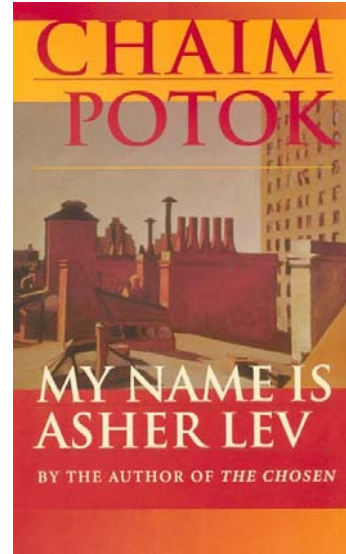
Asher  
Determined, unconventional, talented, obsessed  
Son of Aryeh and Rivkeh  
Lover of his family, his culture, but most of all artwork  
Who feels misunderstood, obligated, and divided  
Who needs acceptance, love, and patience  
Who fears his father, losing his heritage, failure  
Who gives love, dilemmas, and despair  
Who would like to see the possibility of keeping his religion while developing his talents,  
acceptance within the Jewish community,  
the realization of his own "David"  
Resident of the Bronx  
Lev

## Create a Biopoem for *My name is Asher Lev*

Choose any character from the novel and use the following format to create a poem about him/her. If there isn't enough room in the spaces provided, feel free to print your poem out on your own paper.

Format:

- Line 1: (first name)
- Line 2: (Four traits that describe the character)
- Line 3: (Father, Son, Sister, etc. . .) of \_\_\_\_\_
- Line 4: Lover of \_\_\_\_\_ (list three items)
- 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)



### Your Poem

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Lover of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Who feels \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Who needs \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Who fears \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Who gives \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Who would like to see \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Resident of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_