

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

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### Plains Poetry

#### Limon Heritage Museum & Railroad Park

**Background:** As you've traveled throughout the Pioneering Plains of eastern Colorado, you've probably seen an iconic old windmill, as well as wind turbines spread throughout the region. The Limon Heritage Museum and Railroad Park has got you covered with an exhibit that details everything about these structures. To learn more about the machines that have been harnessing the power of the wind for over two centuries watch [this video](#).

#### Word Alert:

**Gears**—toothed wheels that work together to make things move, such as on a bicycle wheel

**Rotor blades**—the part that catches the wind to make the windmill turn

**Turbine**—a machine for producing power which a wheel or rotor is made to revolve

#### Questions to Ask:

1. Describe a windmill and wind turbine? *Various answers accepted, but could include: the old windmills have several blades and may or may not be working AND the wind turbines are very tall and seem to move very slowly)*
2. What are windmills used for? *Old ones were used for pumping water and grinding grain; new ones are used to generate electricity*
3. How are they important to the history of the plains? *Pioneers needed to pump water from the ground and they needed a way to grind grain more efficiently than by hand. Windmills produced needed energy from the wind.*
4. Why are there so many modern wind turbines on the plains? *The wind blows frequently on the plains and energy companies lease the rancher's or farmer's property to put their turbines—these are called wind farms. Wind turbines provide farmers/ranchers an additional way to make money.*

**Activity:** After exploring the grounds of the museum, write an acrostic poem about the wind and/or windmills. Acrostic poems have each letter of a word written down the one side of the paper and a word/words or sentences that begin with each letter on the opposite side. See the examples below and watch [this video](#) for more information about creating an acrostic poem.

## Examples

### Examples for K-2

**S**hining, sweating  
**U**pward, universe  
**N**eeded, now

**S**hining on my head.  
**U**nder a fluffy cloud temporarily.  
**N**eeding some sunscreen very soon.

### Examples for 3rd -5th grade

**S**miling down on me, deciding on whether to come out from  
**U**nder the wispy clouds forcing me to apply sunscreen for the  
**N**inth time today.

**S**hining, sweltering, suffocating, sweating,  
**U**pward, unstoppable, universe, umbrella  
**N**oon, needed, natural, normal.

Acrostic Poem: Write your own acrostic using words and/or sentences. If you need to shorten your poem, you can just create an acrostic poem for **WIND**.

<b>W</b>	_____
<b>I</b>	_____
<b>N</b>	_____
<b>D</b>	_____
<b>M</b>	_____
<b>I</b>	_____
<b>L</b>	_____
<b>L</b>	_____