A biographical poem is a good way for students to become acquainted at the first of the school year. The pattern for writing the poem makes it a sure success for all students.

Here's the pattern:

Poem Title: Write your first and last name.
First Line: Write your first name only.
Second Line: Write four traits that describe you.
Third Line: Start the line with--Brother/sister of...or Son or daughter of... (may use more than one name)
Fourth Line: Start the line with--Lover of...use names of three people or ideas.
Fifth Line: Start the line with--Who Feel...give three feelings.
Sixth Line: Start the line with...Who fears...give three fears.
Seventh Line: Start the line with...Who would like to see...give three items.
Eighth Line: Start the line with....Resident of...give city and state.
Nine Line: Write your last name only.

Be sure to model this for your students using yourself or a character from a book that you have been reading in class. If you use it early in the school year, I suggest that you use yourself so that your students get to know you.

Based on material from "Helping History Come Alive With Literature," Social Studies, 80, by K.E. Danielson.