

## All loved up!

The path of true love doesn't always run smooth! Before Charles met Catherine, he fell madly in love with a girl called Maria Beadnell. He was just 18 years old. To tell her how he felt, he wrote her a poem! Here is the first verse. Have a good look, do you notice anything special about this poem?



*My life may be chequered with scenes of misery and pain,  
And't may be my fate to struggle with adversity in vain:  
Regardless of misfortunes tho' howe'er bitter they may be,  
I shall always have one retrospect, a hallowed one to me,  
And it will be of that happy time when first I gazed on thee.*

Clue – look  
at the first  
letter of each  
line.

Good spot – the first letters of each line spell out Maria's name!  
This is called an acrostic poem.

We don't know what you think, but it's probably not the best thing Charles Dickens ever wrote!

Can you do any better? Have a go at writing your own acrostic poem for someone or something you love!

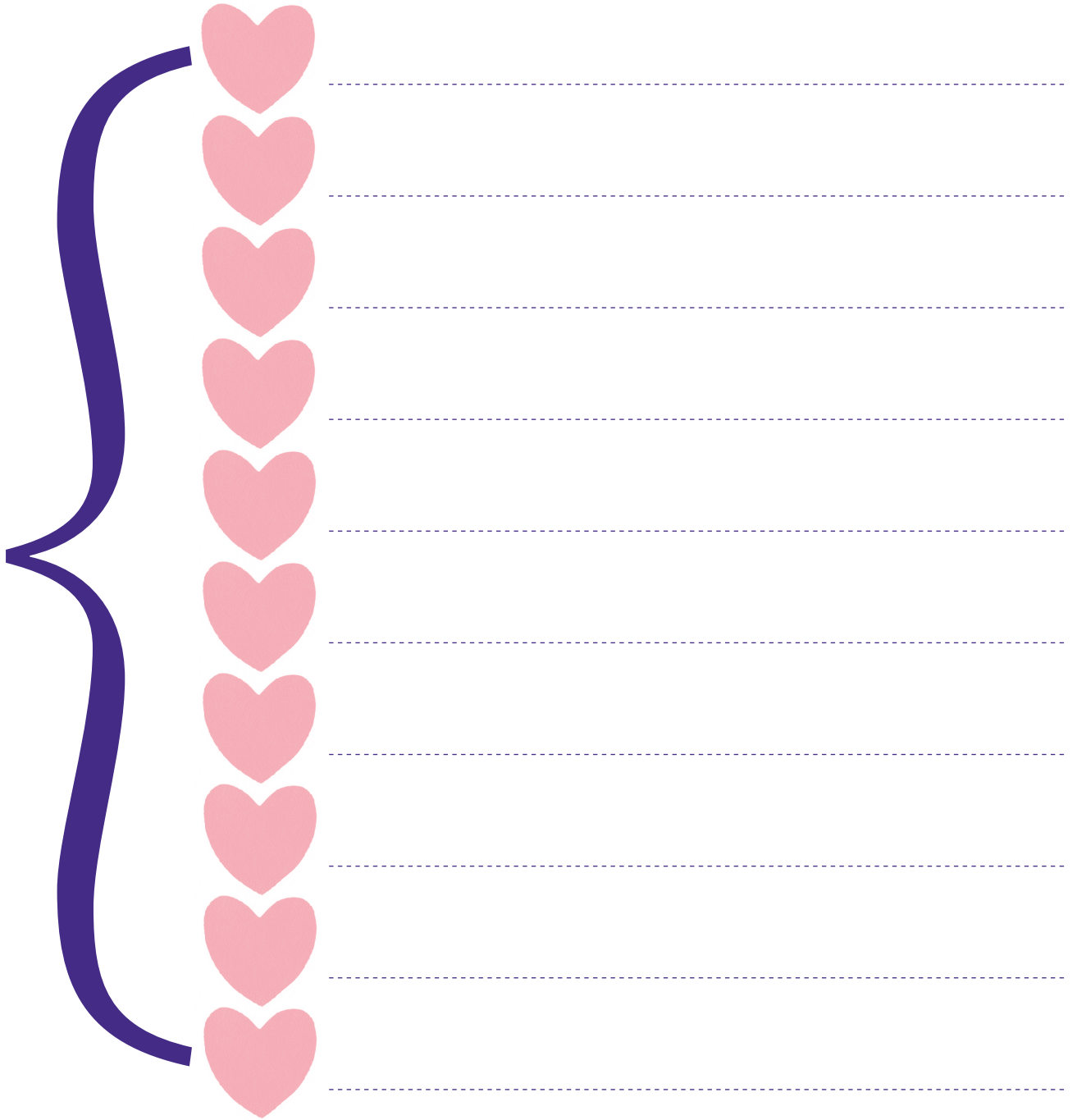
Write each letter of your love's name in a heart. Then write each line of your poem, so that it starts with one of those letters.

Read it to your love! If they fall madly in love with you too, then you will know it has worked!



# Charles Dickens Museum

Write the name of your loved one here



A vertical list of ten pink hearts. To the left of the hearts is a large, dark blue curly bracket. To the right of each heart is a horizontal dashed line, providing ten lines for writing names.



Sadly, poor Charles, didn't quite manage it with his! Don't worry though, luckily, he had a lot more success woo-ing Catherine!

