

Name: _____

#: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Section: WRITING

"I AM" POEM

OVERVIEW

- An "I Am" poem is one written BY you and ABOUT you.
- The "I Am" poem expresses the way you feel, what you hope, think, dream, enjoy and so on.
- Each "I Am" poem contains specific elements in common.
- The lines in each poem begin the same way: I am, I wonder, I feel, I hear and so forth.
- Some sentences in the poem describe imaginary sights, sounds and experiences. (That is – they are figurative language!) Other sentences express actual, literal feelings.
- The first line in your poem – the "I Am" line – is repeated at the end of each stanza.

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES...

I am a carefree girl who loves horses.

I wonder if there was ever a horse that could fly.

I hear the pages of a book whispering its words to me.

I see a friendly alien hovering outside my bedroom window on a cool fall evening.

I want to glide wingless over a fresh garden meadow.

I am a carefree girl who loves horses.

I pretend to win an Olympic gold medal.

I feel the sands of the Sahara stinging my skin.

I touch the soft fur of a genetically altered cat-dog.

I worry that I'll never ride again.

I cry when animals are abused or neglected.

I am a carefree girl who loves horses.

I understand that I may not always be able to do exactly what I want to do.

I say let all forests remain standing so that wildlife will not perish.

I dream about the day I am grown and have children of my own.

I try to be the best big sister I can possibly be.

I hope to be a veterinarian some day.

I am a carefree girl who loves horses.

Here is another example:

I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.

I wonder what I, and the world, will be like in the year 2020.

I hear silence pushing in the middle of the night.

I see a dolphin flying up to the sky.

I want the adventure of life before it passes me by.

I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.

I pretend that I am the ruler of the universe.

I feel the weight of the world upon my shoulders.

I touch the Milky Way Galaxy at its farthest boundary.

I worry about the devastation of a nuclear holocaust.

I cry about all the misery and poverty in the world.

I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.

I understand the frustration of not being able to do something easily.

I say that everyone is entitled an opportunity to do his or her best.

I dream of traveling to other points on the Earth.

I try to reach out to the poor and starving children through my community service.

I hope that mankind will find peace and not die out.

I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.

NOW... IT'S YOUR TURN!

YOU, TOO, CAN WRITE AN "I AM" POEM!

Begin by describing two things about yourself – special, unique qualities. Avoid the obvious and the ordinary. Think of qualities about yourself that are distinctive (unique!). For example, thousands and thousands of people have brown hair. Thus, the statement, “I am a 13-year-old-girl who has brown hair” contains nothing interesting or unique about that person. That I AM statement could describe – literally – millions of people.

However, when the author re-thought and re-write her I AM line, she came up with, “I am a chestnut-haired daydreamer who bruises easily and believes in astrology – when the stars are right.” WOW! What a strong, powerful statement she created when she strove to find some truly interesting and unique qualities about herself. This revised statement tells us so much more about this seventh-grade girl! It gives us a much better sense of the writer and how she is different from others. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE DIFFERENT!**

Once you have an opening line, you're ready to take off. Look at the next page to see the line-by-line guide you must follow...

"I AM" Poem Structure

FIRST STANZA:

- I am....** (remember what you just read about creating a powerful, creative statement about the unique and different you!)
- I wonder** (something about which you are actually curious)
- I hear** (MUST be an IMAGINARY SOUND – use figurative language here)
- I see** (MUST be an IMAGINARY sight – you can use figurative language here)
- I want** (an actual wish or desire)
- I am** (repeat the same I am line that is in the first line of this stanza)

SECOND STANZA:

- I pretend** (something you actually pretend to do)
- I feel** (must be imaginary – something you could not literally do)
- I touch** (again, must be imaginary – something you could never actually touch)
- I worry** (something that really bothers you and that you really worry about)
- I cry** (something that makes you very sad)
- I am** (repeat the same I am line that is in the first line of your poem)

THIRD STANZA:

- I understand** (something you know is true)
- I say** (something you strongly believe in)
- I dream** (something you actually dream about being, doing or having)
- I try** (something you really make an effort to do or accomplish)
- I hope** (something you sincerely hope for)
- I am** (repeat the same I am line that is in the first line of your poem)



"I Am" Poem Pre-writing

Due date: _____

Directions:

- Answer the following questions about yourself as precisely and completely as possible.
- DO NOT put down the easy answer. Go for the unusual.
- You may not use all of the following answers in your poem, but your work here will provide some "food for thought" as you create your "I Am" poem.

1. What makes you different from other seventh graders? _____

2. Complete this statement: I wonder... _____

3. Create two imaginary sounds (*example: silence pulsing in the middle of the night*)

1. _____
2. _____

4. Create two imaginary sights (*example: dolphins flying up to the sky*)

1. _____
2. _____

5. For what would you wish if you were granted three wishes?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6. What do you actually pretend to be or do at times? _____

7. What four items could you only imagine touching?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

8. What really bothers you? _____

9. What makes you sad? _____

10. What makes you happy? _____

11. Complete the following statement: "I understand..." *(This is something you know to be true, such as a definition or an observable fact of life.)*
I understand _____

12. What do you dream of doing some day? _____

13. For what do you hope? *(example: no homework for the rest of your life)* _____

14. The three words that best describe you are:

15. Lastly, find a picture of the real you! Bring it to class!



"I AM" Poem Rough Draft

Due date: _____

Directions:

- Use these pages to create the rough draft of your "I Am" poem

FIRST STANZA:

I am _____

I wonder _____

I hear _____

I see _____

I want _____

I am _____

SECOND STANZA:

I pretend _____

I feel _____

I touch _____

I worry _____

I cry _____

I am _____

THIRD STANZA:

I understand _____

I say _____

I dream _____

I try _____

I hope _____

I am _____

