

Cultural Awareness about Ourselves

The Who I Am Poem

What to write about in your poem:

your region

your ethnicity

your religion

your memories from different points in your life

your interests and hobbies

your mottos or credos

your favorite phrases

your family traditions and customs

whatever else defines who you are.

You will be sharing your poems – do a good job!

Questions we will discuss in class:

1. How did it feel to share your poem?
2. What, if any, connections did you make with others from this activity? What were some commonalities across poems? Did any of these surprise you?
3. For homework, talk to someone with whom you felt a connection through poetry.

Sample – A Personal “I Am” Poem for Ms. Vargas:

I am volleyball long ago on summery sweaty days.

I am spices and coffee and Scharffenberger chocolate.

I am Latina, from racially diverse Catholic and public schools.

I am the city with its theatres and bookstores and hole in the wall places.

I am a traveler in almost thirty cities in North America, South America, and Europe.

I am an auntie, a tía, a sister, a daughter – I’m all family on

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

I am four college degrees for not many other reasons than loving to learn.

I am identity, introspection, self-reflection, and social action.

I am everything from Bugs Bunny to British novels.

I am black and white films like Casablanca, and documentaries about health.

I am all Literature, all poetry, and the Discovery channel which I don't get because I'd watch it all the time if I did.

I am a passion for teaching, facilitating, and making connections for you, for me, for the love of art, for the love of learning.

I am the one who knows you can do better, even when you thought you were done.