

“I Am” Poem Instructions

For this lesson, you will write an “I Am” poem. This poem is designed to stretch your thinking as you take a close look at who you are.

Read through the examples below and brainstorm a few ideas for your first line before you begin, as it will be repeated several times and serves as the “theme” of this poem. Feel free to adjust the format (if you can’t think of anything for one of the lines then you should change it), but the general format should be as follows:

First stanza

- I am (list two special characteristics)
- I wonder (something you are actually curious about)
- I hear (an imaginary sound)
- I see (an imaginary sight)
- I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Second stanza

- I pretend (something you actually pretend to do)
- I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)
- I touch (an imaginary touch)
- I worry (something that really bothers you)
- I cry (something that really makes you sad)
- I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Third Stanza

- I understand (something you know to be true)
- I say (something you believe in)
- I dream (something you actually dream about)
- I try (something you actually make an effort towards)
- I hope (something you actually hope for)
- I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

See the examples on the next page for inspiration.

Example #1:

I Am

I am a caring son
I wonder if my mom will ever get better
I hear her telling me about her cancer over and over again
I see her tears the night she told me
I want her to get better
I am a caring son

I pretend everything is alright
I feel the pain she has
I try to touch her heart
I worry that she will never get better
I cry when I think about her situation
I am a caring son

I understand that it's not my fault
I say that she will get better
I dream of the day she defeats her illness
I try to always be there for her
I hope everything will go back to normal
I am a caring son

by Charlie

Example #2:

I Am

I am a hardworking teacher who loves to laugh
I wonder how my students will do this year
I hear their brains clicking
I see the light in their eyes
I want them to want to succeed
I am a hardworking teacher who loves to laugh

I pretend I am always in control
I feel like I'm swimming in quicksand sometimes
I touch the hearts and minds of others
I worry that I am not good enough
I cry when one of my family is in pain
I am a hardworking teacher who loves to laugh

I understand I cannot save everyone ignorance and apathy
I say I still need to try
I dream of being the best teacher I can be
I try to make my classes interesting
I hope I never stop caring
I am a hardworking teacher who loves to laugh

By Art