

My culture:

Growing up I never knew what I wanted to be

I knew I was polish

I knew I loved to sing and dance

It was in my blood

My roots were made of it

But I denied it

Deny deny deny

Lie and say I'm just American

I have to blend in

Speak english... I told my mom

Speak english...I told my dad

Speak english...I told myself

But now its different

Today, I embrace my culture

Today, Disco Polo blasts through the car speakers

Today, I celebrate Christmas by eating 12 dishes on Christmas Eve

Today, I dance with my family

Being polish has taught me many things

I can no longer deny what I am

I love what am I and how I grew up will forever stay with me

Artist Statement

Culture is a complicated thing. Everyone grows up differently. I probably grew up differently than you. My poem can be interpreted in a million different ways. Some people may relate to it and others might have no idea what it even means. I decided to add repetition in my poem to exaggerate the sentences. In order to write this poem I had to think back to my childhood. I had to remember how I felt and how things have changed. The childhood memories that formed me into the person that I am today. I thought about my cultural music, traditions and form of art. The difference between who I am now versus who I was before. My poem isn't meant to be seen in black and white but in color. The sentences are meant to be short. Why put paragraphs when I can fit everything in just one small line. Size 12 font, Times New Roman, double spaced. That's something that is always in the back of my mind. Yet another thing that has changed. Life went from big bold cursive fonts to everything looking the same. It's not about the way poetry looks on paper but the way you read it. I've grown and I learned that it's okay to not always be the same. That culture is not just a font that you can change. It's something that's in the back of your mind but you always know about it.