Identity Poem Activity

To accompany reading of “Identity” by Julio Noboa Polanco


Answer the following questions:

Why do you think Polanco compares himself to a weed?

What kind of a person do you think Polanco is, from the way he describes “weeds” in his poem? (Use evidence from the poem)

What kind of people do you think are the “flowers,” and what are Polanco’s feelings towards the “flowers” of our society? (Use evidence here, too)

*Now, consider what an "extended metaphor" is. Is Polanco's metaphor of himself as a weed effective? What does it say about him as a person?

*Now it’s time for students to write their own poem!

Polanco’s “Identity” is an extended metaphor poem. Polanco tells us a lot about his character by simply describing this “weed” that he identifies himself with.

Now, it’s your turn to write an extended metaphor poem! First, let’s find something you might identify yourself with...

Answer the following open-ended questions:

If I were a plant or animal, I’d be a(n) . . .

If I were a piece of furniture, I’d be a(n) . . .

If I were a color, I’d be . . .

If I were a vehicle, I’d be a(n) . . .

Anything else you might compare yourself to? Now choose one and write!
Identity

By ________________________________

Let them be as ______________________

always_____________________________ but ________________________.

I’d rather be a ___________________, __________________ like __________________________

______________________________

To have_________________________, to ______________________________

______________________________

To be ________________________________

______________________________ or ______________________________.

I’d rather be ________________________, and if then____________________,

then to be ________________________, where

______________________________ by ________________________________.

I’d rather ________________________ than ________________________.

If I could ________________________, I’d rather be a ________________________.