

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 toward 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 _____.

*Henderson, P.M. (2013, August). Identity by Julio Noboa Polanco. Mrs. Henderson's Daily Agenda [blog].
<http://www.cobblearning.net/pmhenderson/files/2013/08/Identity-by-Julio-Noboa-Polanco-w7sfui.pdf>*