# Identity Poem Activity

## To accompany reading of “Identity” by Julio Noboa Polanco

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.