

POEMS BY YOU ABOUT YOU

You, too, can write an “I AM” poem. How? Begin by describing two things about yourself – special things about yourself. Avoid the obvious and the ordinary, such as “I am a 15-year-old boy with brown hair.” There are millions of 15-year-old boys with brown hair. Think of things about yourself that are distinctive.

“I am a girl who bruises easily and believes in astrology – when the stars are right.” That’s better because it gives a sense of the speaker.....and how she is different from other people. Don’t be afraid to be different.

_____ I AM _____

I am polite and kind
I wonder about my kids future
I hear a unicorn’s cry
I see Atlantis
I want to do it all over again
I am polite and kind

I pretend I am a princess
I feel an angel’s wings
I touch a summer’s cloud
I worry about violence
I cry for my Gram
I am polite and kind

I understand your love for me
I say children are our future
I dream for a quiet day
I try to do my best
I hope the success of my children
I am polite and kind.

Once you have an opening line, you’re ready to take off. Here is a line-by-line guide you can follow.

I AM

1st Stanza

I am (two special characteristics)
I wonder (something you are actually curious about)
I hear (an imaginary sound)
I see (an imaginary sight)
I want (an actual desire)
I am (the first line of the poem restated)

2nd 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 makes you very sad)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

3rd Stanza

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

Here are two “I AM” poems written by students. As you read them, notice the following things they have in common:

1. The lines in each poem begin the same way
I am...
I wonder...
I hear...(and so on)
2. Some sentences in each poem describe *imaginary* sights, sounds, and experiences, Other sentences express *actual* feelings.
3. The first line in each poem is repeated at the end of each stanza.

I AM

I am sharp and focused
I wonder what the camera really sees
I hear the buzzing bee
I see flowers in early morning light
I want to stop time in a box
I am sharp and focused

I pretend to be a statue
I feel the shakes inside
I touch the shutter button
I worry about the blurry result
I cry that the moment has forever passed
I am sharp and focused

I understand moments in time
I say let’s freeze them forever
I dream of watercolor effects coming to life
I try to see all the soft muted edges