

## Writing your "I Am" Poem

**Directions:** Start with a strong first line. Describe two things about yourself—special things about yourself. Avoid the obvious and the ordinary. Don't tell us things we can tell just by looking at you or knowing you for a day. Think about things that are distinctive.

Example: Bad: "I am a 15-year-old boy with brown hair."

Good: "I am a girl who bruises easily and believes in astrology—when the stars are right." This is better because it gives us a sense of the speaker... and how she is different from other people. Don't be afraid to be different.

## Sample "I Am" Poem

I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.  
I wonder what I, and the world, will be like in the year 2020.  
I hear silence pulsing in the middle of the night.  
I see a dolphin flying up to the sky.  
I want the adventure of life before it passes me by.  
I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.

I pretend that I'm the ruler of the world.  
I feel the weight of the world on my shoulders.  
I touch the sky, the stars, the moon, and all planets as representatives of mankind.  
I worry about the devastation of a nuclear holocaust.  
I cry for all the death and poverty in the world.  
I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins.

I understand the frustration of not being able to do something easily.  
I say that we are all equal.  
I dream of traveling to other points on the earth.  
I try to reach out to poor and starving children.  
I hope that mankind will be at peace and not die out.  
I am a nutty guy who likes dolphins. ~By Sandy Maas

By Suzi Mee, Teachers and Writers Collaborative

I AM  
(1<sup>st</sup> Stanza)

I am \_\_\_\_\_  
I wonder \_\_\_\_\_  
I hear \_\_\_\_\_  
I see \_\_\_\_\_  
I want \_\_\_\_\_  
I am \_\_\_\_\_

(2<sup>nd</sup> Stanza)

I pretend \_\_\_\_\_  
I feel \_\_\_\_\_  
I touch \_\_\_\_\_  
I worry \_\_\_\_\_  
I cry \_\_\_\_\_  
I am \_\_\_\_\_

(3<sup>rd</sup> Stanza)

I understand \_\_\_\_\_  
I say \_\_\_\_\_  
I dream \_\_\_\_\_  
I try \_\_\_\_\_  
I hope \_\_\_\_\_  
I am \_\_\_\_\_