

# Teaching *The Pearl* Curriculum Guide: Writing an I AM Poem

Grade level: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Up

## Instructions:

Poetry is a creative form of writing that allows people to express their feelings and ideas through the use of distinctive style and rhythm. Use the “I AM” model below to craft a poem from the point of view of a character from John Steinbeck’s novels or short stories. You can also choose to write one after a literary character that you read about recently. The poem should be no longer than one page. Study the poem on the second page to give you a better idea of how your poem can look like.

Let’s celebrate National Poetry Month together by show us your dramatic reading abilities and recording yourself (with your parent/guardian’s permission) reading it out loud portraying the character you chose and hash tagging #Steinbeckfromhome for a chance to be featured in our social media accounts. Be creative and have fun!

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I am \_\_\_\_\_ (two special characteristics you have)

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 repeated)

I pretend \_\_\_\_\_ (something you actually pretend)

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)

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)

Figure 25—"I AM" Sample Poem

***The Tracker***

(sample poem)

From John Steinbeck *The Pearl* - Chapter 6

*I am a tracker.*

*I come from inland.*

*I can follow the trail of big horn sheep*

*In the stone mountain.*

*I can read a broken straw or a*

*little tumbled pile of dust.*

*I scuttle over the ground like an animal*

*following the hunted.*

*I am hunting the pearl diver and his family.*

*My partner and I crouch over the signs of the*

*family in the desert.*

*Behind us on horseback is the man with a rifle.*

*My clothes are white and ragged.*

*Circling, searching, peeping, stooping:*

*finding the tracks of life in the desert.*

*Circling, searching, peeping, stooping:*

*I am a tracker.*