"I Am" Poem adapted from www.readwritethink.org
(College & Career, Life Skills)

Grade Range: 5-8   **Time:** 35 Minutes

Synopsis: Students are given a model from which to create their poem. This poem takes a look into the unique parts of each of us that make us who we are!

Materials:
- Poem Template
- Writing utensil for each child

Instructions:
1. Explain to the students that April is National Poetry month. Ask them to share different types of poems that they have heard of or written. What are some typical qualities of poems?
2. Tell the students that they will be creating their own "I Am" poem; a poem that is unique to them and them alone.
3. Let the students know that this poem has three "stanzas" – explain the meaning of "stanza" to the students (a group of lines in a poem) that each begin with the word, "I"
4. Read the example provided.
5. Hand out the template for the students to begin writing their poem
6. Spend time writing your own poem and circulate the room to assist the students as needed
7. If time permits, encourage students to share their poems with the class.

I am _____ and _____
(2 special characteristics you have)

I wonder _____
(something of curiosity)

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 to do)

I feel _____
(a feeling about something imaginary)

I touch _____
(an imaginary touch)

I worry _____
(something that bothers you)

I cry _____
(something that makes you sad)

I am _____
(the first line of the poem repeated)

I understand _____
(something that is true)

I say _____
(something you believe in)

I dream _____
(something you 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)

EXAMPLE

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