

Title: I Am Poems

Content Area:  
Language Arts

NC SCOS or Common Core Objective(s):

5.RL.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

5RL.6 Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Rationale/Relationship to Text:

Catherine, David, Jason, and Kristi are the 4 main characters in the story. Minor characters are Mom, Dad, Jason's Mother, the Speech Therapist. Characters clearly have numerous similarities and differences. Students can use the creation of an I Am poem to make comparisons and to discover the technique of writing a first person narration.

Instructions/Procedures:

(Comparison of characters)

- Students will write an I Am poem about themselves. After these are shared students will choose two characters in the book to write an I Am poem about. They will discuss the point of view of Rules..first person, present tense. Their own I Am poem represents this point of view, just as the Rules story is told by Catherine. They will talk about how the story Rules would be changed had it been told from (for example) David's or Jason's or Kristi's point of view.
- (Understanding characters and point of view) : Ask students to choose one character and write an I Am poem from that character's point of view. You might include the fish, the guinea pigs for fun. Poems can be edited and illustrated for a bulletin board.
- (Contrast and Compare Characters) Follow Up or Alternate Activity. Have students read poems and compare characters. Using Venn diagrams compare a book character to yourself. Or use two "character" I Am Poems and do a Venn diagram to compare/ contrast. (This might be done in pairs.)

Template for I Am Poem...and Model Poems

Materials: Pencil, Paper, Colored pencils for illustrations.

I Am poem template

Line 1: Your first name

Line 2: Four descriptive traits

Line 3: Sibling of....

Line 4: Lover of (people, ideas)

Line 5: Who feels....

Line 6: Who needs...

Line 7: Who wonders...

Line 8: Who fears...

Line 9: Who would like to see...

Line 10: Resident of...

Line 11: First or Last name (or another name to describe you)

References:

Lord, C. (2006). *Rules*. New York: Scholastic

## A fifth Grader's I Am Poem

I am Emily

I am tall, carefree, athletic and energetic  
sibling of Rebecca and Daniel  
lover of flowers and trees  
who feels happiest when my best friend sleeps over  
who needs quiet times and noisy, fun times  
who wonders what I'll be when I grow up  
who fears going to the dentist  
who would like to see Rome and Paris  
resident of the Cool Springs  
Emily

I Am Poem from the point of view of Catherine's dad

I am Dad

A Workaholic, Stressed, Caring, Always Late  
Lover of my family, my tomatoes, my job  
Who feels pulled in too many directions  
Who needs quiet time for myself  
Who gives my heart to my son  
Who wonders if David will grow up to be happy  
Who fears my family does not know how much I love them  
Who would like to see my family lead a joyful life  
Resident of Maine  
Father

