"I Am" Poem Activity 5

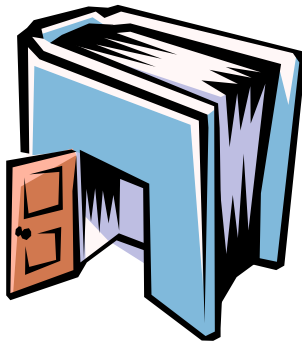**Purpose**   To have students use a recipe to write poetry from the point of view of a nonconforming thinker (contemporary or historical)

Materials   **"I Am"** activity sheet (duplicated per student or pair)

Procedure
1. Pass out the "I Am" guide sheets and explain how, by following the hints in parentheses, one can use a guide sheet to write a poem.

2. Point students to a selected contemporary or historical situation. Ask that they put themselves into the position of a specific character who is nonconforming to conventional thinking. They are to write their poem from that person's perspective.

3. Offer lots of encouragement to the works-in-progress and allow adequate time for completion. The task typically requires substantial and persistent effort and the making of revisions.

Extension   Students read poems aloud to the class or post them for viewing.

Making an "I Am" Poem for Another Person

I AM [*name of nonconforming thinker*]

FIRST STANZA

I am…	*(two special characteristics the person has)*
I wonder…	*(something the person may be curious about)*
I hear…	*(an imaginary sound)*
I see…	*(an imaginary sight)*
I want…	*(a likely desire)*
I am…	*(the first line of the poem repeated)*

SECOND STANZA

I pretend…	*(something the person might pretend to do)*
I feel…	*(a feeling about something imaginary)*
I touch…	*(an imaginary touch)*
I worry…	*(something that probably bothers the person)*
I cry…	*(something that probably makes the person sad)*
I am…	*(the first line of the poem repeated)*

THIRD STANZA

I understand…	*(something the person deems true)*
I say…	*(something the person believes in)*
I dream…	*(something the person might dream about)*
I try…	*(something the person will make an effort about)*
I hope…	*(something the person hopes for)*
I am…	*(the first line of the poem repeated)*