

Grade Level: Lower School Grade 4

Equal, But Not the Same – Expressions in Poetry

(Introduction by Grade 4 student Sahana)

The 4th grade finished a unit called "Equal, But Not the Same" where we looked at our own identity, and stereotypes about boys and girls. We looked at common stereotypes and reflected on them, and we also decided what parts of our identity were important to us. Maybe one person values culture, where they come from, the language they speak, if they are a boy or a girl, or the activities, sports, and hobbies they enjoy. We decided identity is what makes each person unique, and each person should have the freedom to choose their identity. It is our responsibility to value and respect other identities as well.

As part of this inquiry, we looked at poetry as a way to express identity. We learned about poetic devices, such as rhyme, repetition, and alliteration, to do this. We each wrote a poem that either expressed something about our identity and what makes us all unique, or we wrote about changing the stereotypes society has about what boys *should* like and what girls *should* look like, act, or do. We wanted to raise awareness with our poems about the importance of identity, and the problem with stereotypes.

The following poems are written by poems by:

Juanita Cuadros - *Our Identity*

Sahana Bhat – *Boys and Girls*

Chloe Evenson - *1821- 2021*

Iker Ezama - *My Identity Poem*

Alexander Troy Meconiates - *Brothers*

Our Identity



What makes you ---- **you**?
Well, maybe your culture,
your favorite food,
and the sport you play.

What makes you ---- **you**?
Your favorite things,
your favorite color,
your religion and the people you admire?

What makes you ----- **you**?
Your family and friends,
your favorite place, movie, or restaurant,
and the pet you care about,
like my small, sleepy, silly and smart dog.

The countries you enjoy,
and the books you read.
What makes you ----- **you**?

Boys and Girls

Boys will be boys.
Blue,
Sports,
Short hair,
Mean,
Messy,
Buzzing,
Rumbling like a hot volcano.

Girls will be girls.
Sassy,
Nice,
Mumbling,
Scared,
Clean,
Quiet,
Elegant like a swan.

But.....

I am passionate about equality in this world.
I think that Girls and Boys
Should
Be
True
To
Themselves.

Whatever makes you happy.
There should be equality in this world.

1821 - 2021

By Chloe Evenson

1821-2021

Girls and women .

Cooking cleaning, washing up dishes

Wearing pink puffy dresses with tight corsets ,

Getting married

Looking after children.

Looking neat.

So unfair.

So unfair

So unfair

Till one day it changed!!

And that is where we live now.

This is what it is like here,

Women being free.

Some rueling their country ,

Wearing what they want.

Girls going to school getting a education ,

But there are some countries that...!!

Some Girls don't go to school they

Stay home and help their mothers.

They are locked up like an innocent lioness in a cage.

Dreaming

Of opening the doors to see the big wide world.

I hope that will change!!

My Identity Poem!!!!

This is a poem
About my
Identity!

Identity is about
When you came to life.
I was born
Full of candor and love
Sweet as a toffee
Light as a feather
On the year 2010,
First for mom and dad,
That was me as a baby.

Identity is about
Where you start the ride.
I'm Swiss
And Spanish.
Spanish, famous
For being late.
Swiss, famous
For being on time.
Such contradicting
Stereotypes!

Identity is about
How you look like.
My gender
A white man,
Is what I am.

Brothers

By Alexander Troy Meconiates

I only have brothers, with no sisters.
Some say we are the same cause we're all *boys*,
But really we are quite different.
Others say we need a girl, which really *annoys*.

Though she's a girl, me and my mom are alike.
We like to play tennis and *read*.
Evan is more like a mini version of Dad.
They lift weights, yell, and drive us all crazy, its *agreed*.

Leo - well, he is a two and a half year old bulldozer.
What he will be like, it's too early to tell, we'll just have to *see*
It makes me mad when people say he'll be just like me because he's a boy.
He roars like a lion and laughs like a hyena, so just like Evan he may *be*.

Yes, we are all boys but that only gets you so *far*,
Gender does not tell you all about who people *are*.