

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SINGLE STORY POEM ASSIGNMENT

Write a poem that breaks stereotypes and “single stories.” To begin, think about what you may be stereotyped for , but contradicts who you really are.

### My Stereotypes

Stereotype #1: _____	Stereotype #2: _____

Then, as we discussed, a stereotype is a single story of someone. Even though sometimes stereotypes can be true, it does not define who a person is as a whole. In your poem, you will write facts and ideas about yourself that are not true or not consistent with that stereotype.

**“THE PROBLEM WITH STEREOTYPES IS NOT THAT THEY ARE UNTRUE,  
BUT THAT THEY ARE *incomplete*.  
THEY MAKE ONE STORY BECOME THE ONLY STORY.”**  
- CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

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## Brainstorming Sheet

The conjunction "but" means you are going to talk about something that is different or opposite. Therefore, for your first two stanzas, you should mention ideas about yourself that DO NOT fit the stereotype you're writing about.

Each alternating stanza should focus on the same stereotype.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_  
but \_\_\_\_\_  
but \_\_\_\_\_

I am a \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_  
but \_\_\_\_\_  
but \_\_\_\_\_

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

I am a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

The conjunction "and" means you are going to list something in addition to what you already said. In the last two stanzas, you should write other ideas about yourself that may not fit the stereotype, but also expose who you are. Remember, stereotypes are a single story. WE are never just a single story.

### \*Other Reminders

- Poems are not written in complete sentences, so keep your ideas brief and to the point.
- This is a free verse poem, so it does not need to rhyme.
- Your first line and your last line should be your strongest lines.

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## - EXAMPLES -

I am a blonde, but I am NOT dumb  
but I don't always wear pink  
but I am not a brat

I am a cheerleader, but I am not mean  
but I am not that popular  
but I do not control people

I am a blonde, and I am in honors classes  
and I am kind to people  
and I love to read and do art

I am a cheerleader, and I love spending time with my family  
and I love to play outside with my dogs  
and I believe a sport does not control your personality

I am a Muslim, but I'm not going to bomb the school,  
but I don't wear a hijab,  
but I'm not going to steal and eat your goat

I am an artist, but I'm not your art teacher,  
but I do other things than draw,  
but I don't have trillions of art styles

I am a Muslim, and I enjoy going to school,  
and I like my hair all over the place,  
and I eat vegetables, too

I am an artist, and I prefer being a student,  
and I like reading and playing games,  
and I have one simple art style

I am a girl, but I love all types of sports  
But I despise the colors pink and purple  
But I play a lot of video games such as Madden 20

I am an introvert, but I'm loud and talk a lot at home  
But I have a lot of close friends  
But I'm not lonely

I am a girl, and my favorite football team is the Rams  
And I love to draw and create art in my freetime  
And science is my favorite subject in school

I am an introvert, and I'm Italian  
And I love to go to the beach in the summer  
And my favorite food is clams

I am a Mexican, but I'm not poor  
but I don't have an accent  
but I don't have rice and chicken every day

I am a girl, but I don't wear pink  
but I'm not a cheerleader with pom poms  
but I don't do my hair for hours

I am a Mexican, and I have all A's  
and I hate Chihuahuas  
and I love Cross Country

I am a girl, and I work for what I get  
and I love football  
and I love learning about Social Studies

I am a kid, but I am not senseless  
but I don't lose my possessions  
but I don't despise school

I am an introvert, but I don't loathe people  
but I prefer to go outside  
but I wear bright colors

I am a kid, and I am in advanced classes  
and I appreciate being organized  
and I like to write and read

I am an introvert, and I sing in front of people  
and I participate in sports  
and I love talking about my hobbies

I am an athlete, but I wear glasses  
but I am into technology  
but I am smart in every subject

I am young, but I am mature  
but I don't lose my belongings  
but I am organized

I am an athlete, and I  
and I like to learn  
and I love to go to school

I am young, and I have many responsibilities  
and I can do chores myself  
and I play sports

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## – RUBRIC –

	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Content/ Topic</b>	The poem discusses two stereotypes and includes logical and factual details. The poem is clear and easy to follow.	The poem discusses two stereotypes, but lacks an understanding of one stereotype.	The poem is unclear at times and lacks understanding of a stereotype.	The poem lacks understanding of a stereotype; The poem may be off topic.
<b>Structure</b>	The poem follows the format (4 stanzas) and uses the correct sentence structure with conjunctions.	The poem mostly follows the format, but may have minor issues.	The poem is not organized correctly and is confusing to follow.	The poem is unorganized; does not have a clear structure.
<b>Word Choice</b>	The poem includes specific, grade-appropriate word choice.	The poem's word choice is mostly grade-appropriate.	The poem may contain words that are weak or non-descriptive.	The poem lacks grade-appropriate word choice.
<b>Grammar</b>	There are little to no punctuation, capitalization, and spelling issues.	There are minor punctuation, capitalization, and spelling issues.	There are some punctuation, capitalization, and spelling issues.	Several punctuation, capitalization, and spelling issues.

16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5 OR LOWER
100	95	90	87	84	80	78	75	73	70	65	redo