

Add your name and period here

STEP 1 AND 2 READ THE POEM AND USE TP-CASTT & make notes.

"Identity" by Julio Noboa Polanco

Let them be as flowers, always watered, fed, guarded, and admired,
but harnessed to a pot of dirt.

I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed, clinging on cliffs,
like an eagle wind-wavering above high, jagged rocks.

To have broken through the surface of stone, to live,
to feel exposed to the madness of the vast, eternal sky.

To be swayed by the breezes of an ancient sea, carrying my soul,
my seed, beyond the mountains of time or into the abyss of the bizarre.

I'd rather be unseen, and if then shunned by everyone,
than to be a pleasant-smelling flower,

Growing in clusters in the fertile valley, where they're praised,
handled, and plucked by greedy, human hands.

I'd rather smell of musty, green stench than of sweet, fragrant lilac.
If I could stand alone, strong and free, I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed.

2. As you read the poem "Identity." Use the TP-CASTT strategy below and the questions below to examine the poem carefully. Mark up your copy of the poem, making notes for each of the following:

T-Title: Think about the title before you read the poem. What do you think the poem might be about?

P-Paraphrase: Put into your own words some parts of the poem -what you think it is saying. Look at punctuation for clues about who is speaking in the poem and the ideas expressed.

C-Connotation: Highlight words you see as standing out, even if you don't know them. What ideas or feelings are associated with the words or phrases you have chosen?

A- Attitude:: What is the speaker's attitude toward the situation (tone)?
What is his attitude about flowers?
What is his attitude about weeds?

S-Shifts: Are there shifts/changes in speaker? Shifts/changes in attitude?

T-Title: Look at the title again. Now that you read the poem and made notes, how have your ideas about the meaning of the title changed?

T-Theme: What is the author saying about life? What is the message about for people?

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STEP 3 DESCRIBE IN TWO SENTENCES WHAT YOU SEE IN YOUR MIND WHEN YOU READ THE POEM OR YOU CAN SKETCH a picture of what you visualize as you READ.

**STEP 4 WEEK 5 WRITING GRADE CHOOSE ONE CHOICE BELOW:
EITHER PROMPT A OR PROMPT B.**

CHOICE A: Write your own original poem with a life message. Try to use a comparison of similes or metaphors like the poet did comparing weeds and flowers. You are free to create your own poem...it does not have to rhyme, but it can. It should be at least 8 lines ... it can be more. You decide how to divide and set up the lines the way you want it to sound to the reader.

CHOICE B... IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO WRITE A POEM, THEN DO THIS.

WRITE 5-7 SENTENCES IN A PARAGRAPH TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOU THINK THE LIFE MESSAGE/ THE THEME OF THE POEM "Identity" MIGHT BE. Explain WHY YOU THINK THAT using words and phrases from the poem. (USE QUOTATION MARKS.)

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOUR WRITING CAN BEGIN. (YOU CAN USE MY SENTENCES TO START YOU OFF)

In the poem, "Identity" the poet Julio Polanco seems to have a person comparing being a weed with being a flower. After reading the poem, I think there is a bigger life message about