

Identity

Julio Noboa Polanco



Let them be as flowers,
Always watered, fed, guarded, 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.



After reading the first 2 stanzas of "Identity," answer the questions below

1. What do the **first 2 stanzas** mean to you?

2. What **two words** stick out the most? Why?

After reading the whole poem, complete the activities below

1. **Highlight** what you believe to be the most **POWERFUL** phrase in the poem and explain below why you believe it to be so powerful.

2. Why is the poem's title "Identity"?

3. Fill in the boxes below with either words or drawings.

Who I am when everyone is looking

Who I am when no one is looking

