

Name:

Teacher:

Class:

Date:

# 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.







# Our Deepest FEAR

**Marianne Williamson**

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness,  
That most frightens us.

We ask ourselves,  
Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?

Your playing small  
Does not serve the world.  
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking  
So that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine,  
As children do.

It's not just in some of us;  
It's in everyone.

And, as we let our own light shine,  
We unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our fear,  
Our presence automatically liberates others.



## After reading “Our Deepest Fear” 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. What is this poem saying? Put it into your own words.
3. Now that you have read both “**Identity**” and “**Our Deepest Fear,**” your assignment is to construct your own poem. You will use **words** and **phrases** from the two poems, only adding in your own words for understanding or transition (see example below). Your poem must be **20 lines in length** and have a **unique title**. Use the lines provided on the next page to write your poem.

### The Problem With the World Today

We ask ourselves,  
Who am I to be brilliant?

If I could stand alone,  
Strong and free.  
I'd rather be  
Gorgeous,  
Handsome,  
Talented.

I'd rather be  
A pleasant-smelling flower.  
Growing in clusters  
Praised,  
Handled,  
Plucked.

I'd rather be  
Watered,  
Fed,  
Guarded,  
Admired.

I'd rather be  
Powerful beyond measure.

