

WRITING AN "I AM" POEM



There is no specific formula for this poem, but you do need to include and consider the following:

- The focus of the poem is to describe YOU
- Your poem does not have to rhyme; if you include rhyme, make sure that meaning is your priority
- You must include similes and metaphors in your poem:
 - You may use the format: I am a or I am like a....
- You must extend the comparison (metaphor or simile) with an explanation or description
 - You may use the format: I am a grasshopper; I jump from idea to idea
 - Use the semicolon to format your line
 - Or write your simile/metaphor and extend in your own way
- Incorporate stanzas if that makes sense for your poem
- Include vivid, sharp images (not empty words like “nice”)
- Consider writing what you are NOT: I am not a flower;
- With poem writing, you do not have to follow the rules of capitalization and punctuation; make those decisions based on what is right for your poem
- Make sure your poem “ends” in a way that makes sense and leaves the reader with a strong image of who you are
- Once you have your first version of your poem, read it out loud to another writer; ask for feedback on how the meaning you intend to convey is accomplished
- When you think your poem is ready to “publish” finalize by checking spelling and print.
- You may “decorate” your printed copy in any way that enhances your writing and self-description
- *MAY THE POETRY FAIRIES BE WITH YOU*