

Name: _____ Date: _____

Would You Still Be You?

Directions: After reading "Would I Still Be Me?" by Jennifer Dignan, complete the activity "Analyzing Poetry." Then follow the directions below to write your own "Would I Still Be Me?" poem—about yourself! (Note: To keep things simple, we refer to the speaker of Dignan's poem as "her," but the speaker is not necessarily female.)

1 In Dignan's poem, the speaker thinks about what makes her who she is, from the toppings she likes on her pizza to the way she feels when she looks up at the stars. Fill in the graphic organizer below to help you brainstorm ideas about what makes you who you are. You don't need to write in complete sentences.

WHAT YOU EAT

Be specific! For example, don't just write "pizza"; write what you like *on* your pizza.

WHAT YOU WEAR

What styles, brands, or colors do you usually wear? How would you describe your style?

WHAT YOU LISTEN TO

What genre of music do you like best? Who are some of your favorite artists?

WHAT YOU DO ONLINE

What apps do you use? What do you like to post or view on social media?

WHAT YOU DO OFFLINE

What are your hobbies or passions? What do you like to do in your free time?

WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT

This could be anything from playing basketball to listening to others.

WHAT YOU'RE SCARED OF

This could be anything from spiders to public speaking to climate change.

WHAT YOU'RE LIKE

List words and phrases to describe your personality.

WHAT ELSE?

Use this space to list any other facts about yourself that come to mind.

WHAT'S SUPER IMPORTANT

Is there something that if it changed, you would no longer be you?
Write at least one idea.

2

Look back at what you brainstormed.

- Put a check mark next to the things that are most important to making you who you are.
- Put an x next to the things you think are least important to making you who you are.
- If you think of anything to add to the boxes while you're doing this, go ahead and add it!

3

Now it's time to write the first draft of your poem. Use Jennifer Dignan's poem "Would I Still Be Me?" as a model to write your own "Would I Still Be Me?" poem, in which you ask yourself the same types of questions—but about yourself.

Write your poem on your own piece of paper. Be sure to

- include things you think are not that important to making you who you are as well as things you think are very important to making you who you are. Be sure the reader can tell which are which.
- end with the line "Would I still be me?"

4 After you finish your first draft, read it through, paying attention to the way it sounds. Does it flow like a good song? If not, can you make the rhythm more pleasing? Sometimes a little change, like switching the places of a few words, can make a big difference.

Most important of all, ask yourself, "Would someone reading this poem get an idea of what makes me *me*?" If not, what can you change to make your poem reveal more about you?

5 Once your poem is finished, decorate it with doodles the way Dignan's poem is decorated on page 32 of the September issue of *Scope*. Your doodles, like the ones in *Scope*, should reflect ideas and images in the poem.