



# Title: I, too, Sing America.

**60 minutes**

**Credit: Tomas J. Stanton**

**Objective / Mastery Skill:** Students will explore the concept of Identity and the many layers identity can manifest in one's life.

<b>Literary Devices/ Key Terms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concrete Imagery</li><li>• Metaphor</li><li>• Legacy</li><li>• Voice</li></ul>
<b>Themes:</b>	Identity
<b>Material, Room, and Technology Requirements</b>	Writing utensil, paper, model poem
<b>Social / Emotional Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self - Awareness</li><li>• Social Awareness</li><li>• Self- Management</li><li>• Relationship Building</li></ul>

## **Academic Standards:**

- (9-10.W.3) / (11-12.W.3) Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- (9-10.W.10) / (11-12.W.10) Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- (9-10.SL.1) / (11-12.SL.1) Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grades (9-10) / (11-12) topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.



# Lesson Plan

<b>Gratitude Journal</b>	<b>5 min</b>	Start class by asking students one thing they are grateful for.
<b>Warm Up</b>	<b>10 min</b>	Read Poem: The Delight Song of Tsoai-talee By N. Scott Momaday and have students write a quick list of “I am” lines.
<b>Model Poem/ Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think</li> <li>• Pair</li> <li>• Share</li> </ul>	<b>15 min</b>	<p>Read the poem “I, Too” by Langston Hughes. Ask students for initial thoughts of the poem using the guide of <b>(I liked, I noticed, I wonder)</b></p> <p><b>Think</b> - <i>Reflect on the Line “I am the darker brother”. Ask students if this is something the author thought of himself or was this a label that society gave him. What are the historical / modern day consequences of being viewed as “darker” in society.</i></p> <p><b>Pair</b> - <i>Ask students to get into groups of 2 or 3 and discuss within a small group the labels people, the media, and society have put on them or their community.</i></p> <p><i>Additional questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Has there ever been a time that you felt like “you were sent to the kitchen”?</i></li> <li>2. <i>What is the author saying in the third stanza “tomorrow i’ll be at the table when company comes....”?</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>This is an opportunity to talk about metaphor. Is the author referring to a literal kitchen?</i></p> <p><b>Share</b> - <i>Open up conversation up to entire group</i></p>
<b>Writing</b>	<b>20 min</b>	Have students write their original version of this poem. Remind students that creativity is infinite and they can take their version of the poem in a direction they want. Remind them of their conversations and use their discoveries



		and creative content. Lastly, before they start, ask the students about the word “America” in the first and last lines of the poem. Can this word be replaced. Possible replacement words (Love, school name, neighborhood, etc).
<b>Sharing/Feedback</b>	<b>10 min</b>	Each student will be encouraged to share their poems with the group. Be sure to provide positive feedback and make connections to areas where the student exhibited a connection with the learning objectives for the lesson.
<b>Put Ups</b>	<b>5 min</b>	Students state acknowledgements to classmates.



# Model Poem

## **The Delight Song of Tsoai-talee**

BY N. SCOTT MOMADAY

I am a feather on the bright sky  
I am the blue horse that runs in the plain  
I am the fish that rolls, shining, in the water  
I am the shadow that follows a child  
I am the evening light, the lustre of meadows  
I am an eagle playing with the wind  
I am a cluster of bright beads  
I am the farthest star  
I am the cold of dawn  
I am the roaring of the rain  
I am the glitter on the crust of the snow  
I am the long track of the moon in a lake  
I am a flame of four colors  
I am a deer standing away in the dusk  
I am a field of sumac and the pomme blanche  
I am an angle of geese in the winter sky  
I am the hunger of a young wolf  
I am the whole dream of these things

You see, I am alive, I am alive  
I stand in good relation to the earth  
I stand in good relation to the gods  
I stand in good relation to all that is beautiful  
I stand in good relation to the daughter of Tsen-tainte  
You see, I am alive, I am alive



# Model Poem

## **I, Too**

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother  
They send me to eat in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I am  
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.