

## APPLYING READING STRATEGIES

- ▶ Synthesizing
- ▶ Evaluating

What do you think?

Most teenagers are confident and comfortable with themselves.

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

1

2

3

4

5

## VOCABULARY

**animatedly:** lively

**cynically:** believing that people are insincere and only do things out of selfishness

**erratic:** irregular

**Fender:** a brand of guitar

**fraught:** filled with something bad

**optimistic:** expecting the best

**sanctuary:** a safe place

### Vocabulary Tip

Think of long words as word equations. For example, *animatedly* can be seen as **animate** + **ed** + **ly** (drop the final *e*); *cynically* as **cynic** + **al** + **ly** (notice the double *l*). When you isolate the base word (*animate* and *cynic*), it is easier to determine the meaning.

# So I'm Told

Poem by Megan Morris

I am ...

unspeakably **loud**,  
insanely **normal**,  
creatively **dull**,  
horribly **good**,  
arrogantly **humble**,  
hysterically **calm**,  
perfectly **imperfect**,  
simply **complex**,  
precisely **off-centre**,  
cynically **optimistic**,  
foolishly **realistic**,  
incompetently **capable**,  
animatedly **real**,  
patiently **anxious**,  
cowardly **courageous**,  
characteristically **remarkable**,  
or so I'm told.

And I'm completely OK with it.





# Musical Therapy

Poem by Travis H.

Two essays, math problems, and more.  
Additional homework tonight to stress me out.  
I swear, it never ends no matter how hard I work.  
It's like climbing a brick wall, a wall that keeps building.

I rush upstairs, ignoring my dog's greeting,  
And settle down in my comfortable leather chair.  
The computer boots up, it slowly hums to life  
But not fast enough, as my fingers keep drumming

## Impatiently.

I anxiously look around my room: my sanctuary, my haven.  
My frantic eyes come to focus on my old Fender.  
With its dark coating, flaming frets, and shiny silver strings,  
It calls me toward its lonely corner.

I pick it up, placing the strap over my head  
And assume a comfortable posture.  
There's a pick on the desk; its smooth surface graces my fingertips.  
I strum across the strings, all surprisingly tuned.

## The sound is soothing.

I play awhile, for how long I know not,  
And realize how long it's been since last time.  
I'm rusty at first, my chords sound erratic,  
But soon the feeling's natural again.

My busy mind, once fraught with worry,  
Steadily begins to subside and relax.  
My amp blares, all movement becoming second nature,  
As I am one with the music, letting it flow through me.

When I finally set my old friend down,  
My soul is relaxed and ready.  
I vow to play again, once my work is finished

So I start **TYPING**.



# Paint Me Like I Am

Poem by Delia Garcia

Why don't you paint me  
Like I am?  
Paint me happy,  
Laughing, running down a path of happiness  
Paint me with a smile on my face.

Paint me with long wavy black hair  
And my rosy cheeks.  
Paint me sunflowers, red and white roses  
Paint me with bears, rabbits, and baby deer  
In my arms, dancing around me.  
Paint me somewhere wonderful  
Somewhere where there's sunshine and  
A light blue sky  
With butterflies floating  
Around that lovely sky.

Paint me without my sadness.  
Paint me without my sorrow.  
Paint me without my tears.  
Paint me so my pain won't show.

Can you see the face telling you paint me happy,  
Paint me with life, but most of all  
Paint me free.

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## Responding

**What Do You Think Now?** Are most teenagers confident and comfortable with themselves? What is your response now that you have read the poems? How do you think the speaker in each of these poems would answer this question?

**Synthesizing:** As you read each poem, did your thinking change? If so, what ideas altered your thinking? What ideas fit with your thinking? What is your opinion now?

**Evaluating:** What values or beliefs do all four poets have in common? What evidence from the poems supports your opinion? Do you agree with these values or beliefs? Explain.

**Reading for Detail:** Identify one line from each poem that speaks to you or that you found memorable. Explain why you chose each line.

**Literary Devices:** An *oxymoron* is a figure of speech in which contradictory ideas are combined, such as "thunderous silence." Which of the poets most effectively uses oxymorons? Why do you think so?

**Critical Thinking:** What do you think "be unique but not different" means?

**Metacognition:** How did synthesizing and evaluating deepen your understanding of the poems?