

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.

eBook Extra

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?

After reading the previous items, answer the following questions IN COMPLETE SENTENCES in a Google Document (preferred), but Word/Pages will work. Call the document "Identity" and place in your Drive/DropBox folder when FINISHED.)

1. So I'm Told

Come up with your own poem, using the same format (adverb, adjective. Eg: amazingly awesome). What are you? Think about things that people have said about you or that you believe people think about you. What do you want people to think? (this should NOT be in complete sentences, it should follow the same form as the poem given. You must have a minimum of 10 descriptions of you.) (10)

2. They said

- a) What is the conflict that this person is feeling? (5)
- b) Do you think that this person is comfortable with herself? (5)
- c) Why do you think 'they' told her these things? (5)

3. Musical Therapy

- a) Why do you think Travis decides to play guitar when he clearly has a lot to do? (5)
- b) What effect does his practicing/playing have on Travis? How do you think it will affect the work that he needs to do? (5)
- c) What do you do in similar situations? Does it help you or hurt you? (5)

4. Paint Me Like I Am

- a) Why are the lines of the poem broken up the way they are? What effect does this have on the words themselves? How about on the reader? (5)
- b) How does this poet truly feel about herself? Does she wish that she could be different than she is? (5)
- c) What is ironic about the title of the poem? (5)

5. How important is it for teenagers to develop a strong self-identity?

- a) What kinds of things do teenagers do, want, or look for to help develop a strong sense of self? (5)
- b) What happens to people your age who just can't figure out who they really are and what they're really good at? (5)
- c) What about people who have a strong sense of self? What do their lives look like? What is different about them as opposed to teenagers who aren't as comfortable with and confident in themselves? (5)