

# Here I Am, World

Jamie Russell

I've had my hair many different ways all throughout my life. I have no problem with any style, length, and color. I am currently wearing what's called a Fohawk.

It was a shock at first, but plenty of people took to it. I have the personality to back up my different hair styles. I am not shy about how I look. My styles represent all the different feelings I go through from day to day. I became nervous only when walking into my church for the first time. I got through it though. I went up and sat in the first row in front of God and everyone. "Here I am, world," is exactly how I felt. Take me or leave me.

Now I forget it's even on my head. Like I said, personality! I may not be much, but I am all I think about. I have a loving relationship with hair because it's the only thing we can change over and over again. We can wear it differently, color it pretty, or just let it grow. I feel my hair is a form of artistic expression. Maybe you do too!?

**LEARN AN IDIOM:** What does the author mean when she says "plenty of people took to it"?



Jamie is a student at Belfast Adult Education in Belfast, Maine, who is currently taking classes to achieve her high school diploma. She is a strong independent woman and a single mother of three beautiful children. Once she achieves her high school diploma, she plans to go to college to become a pediatric nurse.

## Are We Really Free to Choose?

**Read the articles** on pp. 6-7, 13, and 14. What is similar about each of these articles? What is different?

**Study the illustration** on the next page, and describe in detail what you see. What hairstyles do you see? What expressions and attitudes are on the faces? Be able to name the expressions and say *why* you have that opinion.

**Check out the Fashion issue** of *The Change Agent* (Issue #31) for more articles and illustrations about the challenges and joys of how we present ourselves to the world.

