



# “I Am” Poem

*Jose Katt*

I am resilient.  
I am wise and strong.  
I wonder if there’s life on other planets.  
I hear a curiously calm melody, like water  
    in a river.  
I see the future in the palm of my hand.  
I want to study the unknown.  
I am resilient.  
I find unique magic in our reality.  
I feel my heart full of majestic light  
    when I hear the silence of the sunset.  
I worry when people can’t get along after all this time.  
I cry when my people get hurt.  
I am resilient.  
I understand my life is precious and unique.  
I say what I need to say to avoid conflict.  
I dream of having dreams again.  
I try to make a change and teach people what I know.  
I hope that one day, we all learn how to share.  
Because I am resilient, I will not give up so easy.  
I wonder if I can still hear the fish in the ocean  
    and see clean water and open sky,  
    watching whales jump without fear.  
I will fight for the change that I want to make.  
I am resilient.  
I may pretend not to care, but deep down  
    I feel touched by the way some people master how to care  
    and even cry for those who are not family.  
I understand sometimes we say what we dream of:  
Making change in hope for a better future.  
Today starts with me because  
I am resilient.



**AFTER YOU READ:** How does Jose show himself in this poem? What does he reveal? How does he use language (for example, repetition) to communicate? Write your own “I Am” poem. See p. 17 for a template.

*Jose Katt is a student at Santa Cruz County Continuing Education in Nogales, Arizona. He was born in Los Angeles, California. He attended school but lacked enthusiasm and met his first sorrows by failing his classes. However, he learned how to read and write and this fueled his desire to learn. He learned about great people who made big changes, like Gandhi, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and Martin Luther King Jr. He is inspired by the great people who were enlightened with faith before us.*

