

## Outside Looking In

*Developed for Poetry Out Loud 2021/22*

**Name of Lesson:** Outside Looking In

**Standards Addressed:** W.9-10.2.d-e; W.11-12.2d-e; W.9-10.3; W.11-12.3; W.9-10.4; W.11-12.4; SL.9-10.4; SL.11-12.4; SL.9-10.6; SL.11-12.6

**Lesson Focus:** For this lesson the scholar will be writing an autobiography poem about their cultural background and upbringing. The poem is attended to give those who are on the outside looking in a better understanding about the scholar. What would you want the world to know about you?

**Learning Objectives:** The objective of this lesson is for the scholar to get a better understanding of who they are and what makes them different from everyone else. This lesson will also help with the child social and emotional learning.

**Materials Needed:**

Pencil  
Paper

**Resource Video:**

<https://youtu.be/DuSpiwpg4BI>

**Activity:**

- As a class, in small groups, or individually, take ~10 minutes to brainstorm ideas about character traits, identity, persona, family, neighborhood, privileges, challenges, growing up, etc.
- Have students write an eight-line+ poem about themselves and their upbringing
- Reflect on & Discuss the writing process with students. What came easy? What was challenging? How might they approach writing a poem differently next time? What are they proud of?
- Share! Have students read/recite their poems for the class.

**Things to think about:**

- What is cultural background?
- How was your childhood?
- What was your family life like and how did it impact you?
- What adversity did you have to face and how did you overcome it?
- What makes you different from everyone else?