

Identity is My Right to be Me

Me being me
How I see the world.

My many names,
I've been given,
Ones I choose,
To share, to keep safe,
To say hello.

My story—
Lived every day
Inside and out,
Connected.

My people—
Born to, gifted, and chosen.
Culture, my part of many.

My place—
A land of birth,
My home where I stand.

Woven with
How I feel and belong,
How I think and believe.

Words can hurt or uplift.
What others say matters.
What I say does too.

My experiences—
Liked and disliked,
What has happened to me.

They push and pull,
And shape me new.

Everything to do with me
Transforms and builds me,

To what I am...

Anchored
To before, to now,
To who I'll be tomorrow.

I need to try new,
Need to make mistakes
To find my right.

To look to my horizon,
Toward who I wish to become.

Supported to grow and change
Into the best me.

The many layers of me,
Part of the universe of we.

Identity is my right to be me.

This poem was created through workshops with tamariki and whānau across Tāmaki Makaurau, inviting reflection on identity—what makes us who we are, how we belong, and how we grow.

It was inspired by Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects every child's right to identity—name, family, and nationality—as part of their human rights.

Curated by Emma Hinton (The Light Library) and Lizzy Lockhart (Save the Children NZ), the poem weaves the voices of children into one shared expression: *identity is our right to be ourselves*.

Ko taku tuakiri, ko au

Ko au tonu rā
Ko taku titiro ki te ao.

Ko aku rau ingoa,
Kua tapaia mai,
Ngā mea nāku i kōwhiri,
Hei tuku, hei tiaki māku,
E mihi atu ai au.

Ko taku ao—
E huri nei, i ia rā, i ia rā
Ko roto, ko waho,
E tūhonoa nei.

Ko taku iwi—
I whānau ai au, i whāngai mai, i kōwhiria ai.
Ko ngā ahurea, e hia kē rā.

Ko taku wāhi—
Ko te ūkaipō,
Ko tōku tūrangawaewae.

E rarangahia nei
Ko tōku āhua, ko aku here tangata,
Ko ōku whakaaro, me taku whakapono.

Tā te kupu, he turaki, he hāpai rānei.
He whaitake tā ētahi atu e kī rā
Tā tēnei hoki e kī nei.

Ko aku wheako—
Ngā mea i paingia, i kinongia hoki,
Ngā āhuatanga kua pā.

Ka pana mai, ka tō mai,
Ka āhua anō i a au.

Katoa ka pā mai
Ka whakawhiti, ka whakapakari i a au,

Kia tū au hei...

Punga
I mua, ināiane
Hei tangata anō āpōpō.

Me whakamātau he ara hou,
Me hapa hoki rā
E kitea ai te tika.

Me kaikaru ki te pae,
Ki te tangata e manakotia nei ko au.

E tautokona ana kia tupu, kia huri
Ko tōku puāwaitanga.

Ngā rau paparanga ōku,
He wāhanga nō te ao tukupū o tātou.

Ko taku tuakiri, ko au.

He mea tito tēnei ruri i ētahi wānanga i te taha o ngā tamariki me ngā whānau i tū i te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau, ā, ko te mahi, he huritao ki tēnei mea, ki te tuakiri. Nā te aha i puta pēnei ai tātou? Nā te aha i pēnei ai te āhua o te noho huānga, o te tupu rānei?

He mea whakaaweawe ngā kupu e te Atikara 8 o te Hui Taumata o Te Rūnanga Whakakotahi i ngā Iwi o te Ao mō ngā Mōtika o te Tamaiti. Ko tā tēnei atikara, he tiaki i ngā mōtika o ia tamaiti ki te tuakiri, arā, ki tōna ingoa, ki tōna whānau, ki tōna iwi, hei wāhanga hoki nō ōna mōtika tangata.

He mea rauhi nā Emma Hinton (The Light Library) rāua ko Lizzy Lockhart (Save the Children NZ), ā, ko tā tēnei ruri he tuitui i ngā reo o ngā tamariki ki tētahi whakaputanga tōpū: *ko taku tuakiri, ko au*.

He mea whakamāori nā Hēmi Kelly.

Top
A runga

Make holes on stars
Pokaia ngā whetū

Fold Pages in middle, type facing out
Whētūia a waenga o ngā whārangi,
ā, me tuhi whakawaho

Identity is My Right to be Me **BOOK TEMPLATE**

Ko taku tuakiri, ko au
TAUIRA PUKAPUKA

PRINT

- **Template for holes (not part of book)**
- **Front / Back Cover - Cardboard**
- **Inside Pages - Paper**

HEI TĀ

- Te tauira poka (kāore i te whai wāhi ki te pukapuka)
- A mua / A muri - He kārimārō
- A roto - He pepra