

# TEACHING TOLERANCE



A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER  
WWW.TEACHINGTOLERANCE.ORG

MIDDLE GRADES ACTIVITY

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

## Model Write

After filling out the list on the next page, fit your own thoughts and experiences into the blank spaces of the poem on the right.

### Homeless

Who Am I? Your sister or brother, your  
Mother or father, your daughter or your son.  
I am homeless. Black or white, red or  
brown, I walk the streets all day looking  
just to make it. Through the day people look  
at me and stand back to their friends and  
talk about me, about how I look and how I  
smell, never knowing the real person that is  
inside of me. As you watch your TV and  
play your tapes, I try to stay warm on very  
cold days. When you are warm in your  
home, I am homeless. As you sleep at night  
in your nice warm bed I am trying to sleep  
anywhere I can: rooftops and doorways,  
park benches and so on.

— “Homeless”  
(written by an anonymous homeless person)

### Homeless

Who Am I? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
I am homeless. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Through the day people  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ never  
knowing the real person that is inside of me. As you  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, I am homeless.  
As you \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I am trying to sleep  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and so on.

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MIDDLE GRADES ACTIVITY

<p><b><i>Who Am I?</i></b></p> <p>List as many kinds of relationships as you can think of, like best friend, cousin, 9th-grader, etc.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b><i>Black or white, red or brown</i></b></p> <p>List the different racial and ethnic groups in your area, like White, Armenian, Italian, Chinese, etc.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b><i>I walk the streets all day long</i></b></p> <p>List activities that you do every day, like going to the mall, the movies, eating out, taking a walk, etc.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b><i>People look at me and stand back</i></b></p> <p>List the different ways you or others might treat people you don't know well or are suspicious of, like turning your head so as to not look them in the eyes.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b><i>As you watch your TV</i></b></p> <p>List your favorite things to do in your own room or home, like bake cookies with your grandma, play chess with your mother, or play video games.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b><i>I sleep anywhere I can</i></b></p> <p>Specifically list places where you might sleep outside, like under the overpass at 7th street, in the doorway of the old bank on Main street, or on the 9th hole of the golf course.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>