

Name: _____ Date: _____

What YOU Are Made Of

Directions: After reading "What I'm Made Of" by Rebecca Kai Dotlich, complete the activity "Analyzing Poetry." Then follow the directions below to write your own "What I'm Made Of" poem—about yourself!

1 Brainstorm things about you and your life for each category below. For example, for "weather," you might write "six feet of snow" if something important or meaningful happened to you during a blizzard. This is brainstorming, so just write whatever pops into your head.

<p>weather</p>	<p>sounds</p>	<p>places</p>
<p>goals and dreams</p>	<p>strengths</p> <p>weaknesses</p>	<p>activities and hobbies</p>

2 Now list five words or phrases that describe your personality:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3 Look back at what you brainstormed on page 1. In each box, highlight or circle the things that are the MOST meaningful, special, or important to you—the things that really make you *you*. (If you think of anything to add to the boxes while you're doing this, go ahead and add it!)

4 Now it's time to write the first draft of your poem. Use Rebecca Kai Dotlich's poem "What I'm Made Of" as a model to write your own "What I'm Made Of" poem—about YOU. Replace all the things the speaker lists in Kai Dotlich's poem with the ideas you highlighted or circled from your brainstorming.

Write your poem on your own piece of paper. Be sure to include the following:

- at least two words or phrases that relate to weather
- at least three words or phrases that relate to places
- at least two words or phrases that relate to sound
- at least eight words or phrases that relate to activities or hobbies
- the line "Of struggles with _____ / and genius with _____."
(Fill in the blanks with your own weakness and strength.)

5 After you finish your first draft, read it through, paying attention to the way it sounds. Does it flow like a good song? If not, can you make the rhythm more pleasing? Sometimes a little change, like switching the places of a few words, can make a big difference.

Most important of all, ask yourself, "Would someone reading this poem get an idea of who I am? Would they get an idea of what is special to me and what is special about me?" If not, what can you change to make your poem more personal?