

Instructions: The song *I've Got a Name* tells the story of a person heading down "life's road" with three important pieces of personal property at his side: a name, a song, and a dream.

Inspired by the song, these students created their own "Quest Item Poems," which are shared here. Compare each student poem below to the original song, and then compare the poems to one another.

If you were to write your own "Quest Item Poem," which student sample inspires you the most?

My Story

by John M., seventh grade writer



Life is like a story
You never know
What will be written next.

I carry my love
As deep as the sea
Never ending
Always holding my hand
To assure me of things not known
Subsiding love, subsiding love.

I carry my pride
As tall as the clouds
Riding above buildings
Holding me back
When I seem to be in trouble
Helpful pride, helpful pride.

I carry my curiosity
As full as a story
Brimmed to the edges with ideas
Running by my side
Asking me questions as we go
Quick curiosity, quick curiosity.

My journey is ending
My time is near
And I will go with no fear.
I have my weapons, my holy grails,
No one but me will care
When and if I fail.

My Clown Shoes & Wings

by Danielle R., seventh grade writer

I'm wearin' these clown shoes
As I shuffle down the road,
Laughing and dancing
To lighten my load.

No matter the brambles
That block my path,
I have the confidence
To give a hearty laugh.

I know my clown shoes will see me
Safely to my dreams
Because nothing, you know,
Is really what it seems.

Maybe some day
I will trade my clown shoes in
For wings to fly back
Over where I've been.

Then maybe I'll rest and
Think for a while
And get some new clown shoes
And dance with a smile!



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My Path

by Truman C., seventh grade writer

Like the melody soaring in my mind
I have music, I have music
Like the creativity passing through time
I have music, I have music
Traveling across this rocky road
I find the path my friend once took
Lookin' down this path I take
I move with pride

And I will make it.

Like the glory in my sight
I walk down my path
Like the widow of the night
I walk down my path
And I carry with me my dream
To start anew and come our clean
I move with pride

And I will make it.

And I'm goin' to find my opportunity
Like what my dad had taught me
I have a future
People tell me I can't make it
But let them be
I have a future
I'm givin' it my best and will make history
Now it's time for that test
I'm goin' to give it my very best
I move with pride

And I will make it.



The Journey

by Olivia E., seventh grade writer



Going towards the end
But it starts at the beginning.
What would you bring with you?
Well, here is what I am bringing.

What do you need to get that passing grade?
You need knowledge to get that A.
Carry your knowledge as a necklace.
That will get you all of the way.
Skipping down the freeway,
Driving down the highway,
Going so fast I think I can fly.

What makes you laugh?
Is it a big funny clown?
Whatever it is, you need happiness in your
sock
So you will never be down.
Skipping down the freeway,
Driving down the highway,
Going so fast I think I can fly.

Getting one place to another,
You will need your determination.
You need it in your back pocket
So you can get to your location.
Skipping down the freeway,
Driving down the highway,
Going so fast I think I can fly.

So you can get to your place
With a happy, determined and smart
Smile on your face.

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Make My Own

by Shari S., seventh grade writer

If you were like me then you would know
I travel life in a world unknown.
I got a paved road that I don't take.
Instead I take my tractor
And make my own.

I search for my soul and who I am
In a dark cave with a flashlight in hand.
I got my integrity to carry with me.
I'm someone you can trust
And someone you can see.

I help myself to my pride deep inside.
It may be hid, but not for long.
I will find it and I will ride it all night long.
In the dark it lies
But in the light it flies.

I find my knowledge and use it for good.
I won't hesitate to use it great.
To decide my fate
I'll use it when it comes.
I can wait.

If you are like me
You can see
I am in a world unknown.
I will make my own.



My Own

by Nicole A., seventh grade writer

Again I find myself
on my own little forgotten path,
dragging my dreary legs,
and pushing my broken body
to search for my lost soul.

My will, soaked with tears and blood,
toppling down to jump back up,
and reaching far above,
to cure my confusion
and bring me to mind.

My sins, smiling brightly into the night,
the moon's ghostly rays,
to show sharp teeth,
dark morbid eyes,
and pain written across me,
while a smile dances on my face.

My sense of wonder, dancing among the
stars,
stealing my shattered heart,
and stabbing my clouded mind,
traveling so far with words alone,
and going on though so cold.

Fear will grip inside me,
And my past will break me down,
And I smile at the pain.
A lost soul must be found.

