

## Gathering Words to Make a Collaborative Communal Poem for the Guide to “Within” for ESL instructors

Refer to the full guide, found on [lyricality.org/within/](http://lyricality.org/within/) for activities and resources to help your students experience the poem “Within” by Louise K. Waakaa’igan, and collaborate in the creation of a communal poem.

### Question for Gathering Words

Who are you? Who are we? What or where are we “within” (inside of)? What colors do you see here? What are we doing here? How does that feel?

Where might you feel that in your body? (Offer examples if necessary, “Maybe in your hands, back, throat, belly”)

What do you hope for? What do you dream about? What do you hope will happen?

What do you see in your neighborhood that you don’t like? What hurts you? What does your pain feel like? Where do your tears go?

Name somewhere you have been, but are not now.

Who do you miss the most? Who else do you miss? What do you miss about them? Where do you keep that feeling of missing them?

What smells do you remember? Who reminds you of that smell. What is the Somali word for that person’s relationship to you?

What might heal your hurt?

What is your heart-language’s word or phrase for “good way of life?” What do you want to change?

Where would you like to go, or what would you like to do? What article of clothing would guide you, or would you wear, to get to that place? Why is it hard to get to that place?

What would carry you to that place, or how would you get there?

Who do you pray to? What would you say in your prayer, about where you are and what it feels like?

