

Our Deepest Fear

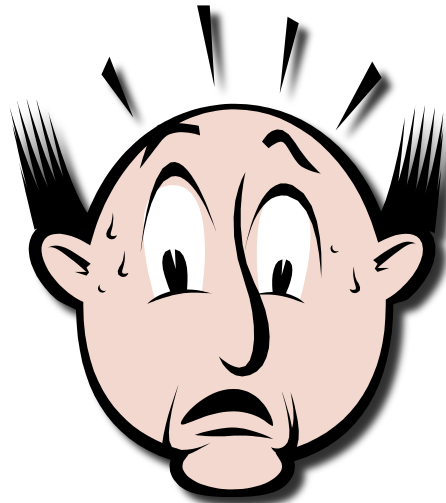
Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves,
Who am I to be brilliant,
Gorgeous,
Handsome,
Talented
And fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?

Your playing small does not serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking
So that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.
It is not just in some; it is in everyone.
And, as we let our own light shine,
We consciously give other people permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

-Marianne Williamson-



After reading "Our Deepest Fear" complete the activities below

1. **Highlight** what you believe to be the most **POWERFUL** phrase in the poem and explain below why you believe it to be so powerful.
2. What is this poem saying? Put it into your own words.
3. Now that you have read both "Identity" and "Our Deepest Fear," your assignment is to construct your own poem. You will use words and phrases from the two poems, only adding in your own words for understanding or transition (see example below). Your poem must be 20 lines in length and have a unique title. Use the lines provided on the next page to write your poem.

The Problem With the World Today

*We ask ourselves,
Who am I to be brilliant?*

*If I could stand alone,
Strong and free.
I'd rather be
Gorgeous,
Handsome,
Talented.*

*I'd rather be
A pleasant-smelling flower.
Growing in clusters
Praised,
Handled,
Plucked.*

*I'd rather be
Watered,
Fed,
Guarded,
Admired.*

*I'd rather be
Powerful beyond measure.*

