

EXPLORE WITH THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

“I Am” Poem*



Homecoming, James W. "Bo" Bartlett, 1995, 83" x 125.5"

Imagine that you are in The Columbus Museum, standing in front of this artwork by Columbus native Bo Bartlett. At over seven feet tall and approximately 10.5 feet wide, *Homecoming* is one of the largest paintings on display in the Museum's permanent collection. How might the scale of this work impact the way in which the viewer experiences it? (Note that the figures in the foreground are nearly life size!)

Now that you've situated yourself in relation to the work, take a moment to let your eyes leisurely move across the painting.

- What do you see?
- What do you think is going on?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

As you may have deduced, this painting depicts a bonfire before a homecoming football game between Columbus High School and its local rival, Jordan High School. The artist provided clues, such as the schools' colors, to help viewers identify the narrative's main characters.

Now that you know a bit more, let's push our thinking further and assume the role of one of the characters in this painting. Choose someone or something that intrigues you. Once you've chosen someone with whom to identify create an "I Am" poem from their perspective. Don't forget to give your poem a title!



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“I Am” Poem*

(Continued)

I am (two special characteristics you have) _____

I hear (sounds, voices, or words) _____

I wonder (something you are curious about) _____

I worry (something that concerns you) _____

I understand (something you know to be true) _____

I feel (an emotion) _____

I dream (something you hope for in the future) _____

I am (repeat the first line of the poem) _____

Title: _____

*Adapted from the National Gallery of Art

