

Read the following poem, then answer the text-based questions that follow.

**Only One Me by Sean Mauricette**

Dedicated to anyone who has ever been bullied.  
Sticks and stones may break my bones,  
but names can leave me with nowhere to go.  
With nowhere to go, I become alone,  
6 friends, 2 friends, no friends so....  
I dive deeper into this dark depression,  
my parents don't know they are under the impression.  
That everything's ok, that mark on my arm,  
was an accident. I fell. No need for alarm.  
In actuality I was pushed, and mentally ambushed,  
to get home I'm in a rush, my confidence is slowly crushed.  
No one to talk to, no friends, and who would understand?  
These names are cutting deeper, I guess that was their plan.  
They mocked me, called me names, every day I'd get dissed,  
now I'm skipping school, I'm anxious, they got their wish.  
I wish they could see how their words completely changed my life.  
sticks and stones may break my bones but...who knows maybe they're right?  
I do look different, my voice is strange,  
I'm not tall enough, my laugh is insane.  
My writing is messy, my shoes look old,  
my drink is hot, my lunch is cold.  
I don't even know if I should bother to go to school,  
I don't know why I'm here in a world so cruel.  
But if I wasn't here and I didn't exist,  
you'd never hear my words, or poem quite like this.  
My story is unique, my story is me,  
I can spend a lifetime trying to please you, or I can just be.  
The person I see in the mirror everyday,  
not perfect but who is? No one, and that's okay.  
My voice is deep but I can sing a tune,  
I'm a little on the short side but starting to fill out my shoes.  
I'm growing and changing, evolving let's agree,  
sticks and stones may break my bones, but still there's only one me .



