

What do you want to be?

What do you want to *be*?

What do *you* want to be?

What do you want to be?

Hey listen kid, you don't have to tell me—

I'm just here to read some poetry.

You can leave now if you want.

You're completely free, you see.

But, before you go, let me tell you

I'm not here to tell you about birds and bees
and trees

and bananas and farmers and poetry things.

This poem is a question,

and I'm asking what you dream and feel and things.

You see, maybe you want to be famous.

Maybe you want to be an astronaut and explore Uranus.

Maybe you want to be the craziest stunt lady Hollywood's ever seen.

Maybe you want to buy some flashy mansion

and spend all your time keeping it clean.

Maybe you're a dancer and Bollywood's more your scene.

Maybe you're a natural,

Maybe you're going to have work hard at it.

Maybe you're a punk singer and you want to smash...it...up.

Maybe you like nice stuff.

Maybe to get it you're going to act all tough.

Maybe you're going to be sweet.

Maybe you're going to meet and greet.

Maybe you just want to help people.

Or maybe you want to be a success, like prove that you're the best.

Maybe you want to be a celebrity, or an important politician,

shake the hands of the mayor.

Then again, maybe you just don't care.

Maybe you're in it for the money.

Now *that's* a sweet honey.

People don't find anything funny when they're racing to be rich.

Maybe you want to be surrounded by iPhones and quick fixes,

Maybe your heart tremors and twitches round diamond rings and bling.

Maybe you want to see all the precious things that eBay can bring,

Or wear so many jewels you look like a King.

Maybe you just want to sing in the shower

and that's what makes you feel free.

Maybe all you need is the moon and a tree to feel happy.

Maybe you're a natural.

Maybe you're a doctor, a tinker, a tailor, an architect of bad behaviour.

You could be a soldier or a spy.

You could be the kind of guy who wonders why

the world is just as it is

Or how the plane can stay in the sky.

Maybe you're an expert at stopping a baby crying.

Maybe you'll be found frying a rich man's breakfast

in a gourmet restaurant.

Maybe you're a killer chef or an amazing painter.

You don't have to know now;

you can find out later what it is you really want to be.

Because maybe you just want to see the world.

Maybe you want to travel around and live out of a backpack.

Maybe you want to be a goth, wearing nothing but black

'cos maybe being blue just ain't you.

Maybe you just have to find out what's true and what's a lie in the

newspaper.

Maybe you'd make a kiss-ass journalist.

Then again maybe all that writing would turn you mentalist.

Maybe you want to make your own zombie movies,

spray ketchup all over your mate's face for fake blood,

Maybe you want to be a dirt biker all covered in mud,
or a rescue woman saving people in a flood.
Maybe you want to be a boxer, landing punches with a thud.
Maybe you want to do very little,
live life quietly up a mountain someplace,
stay up all night staring into space.
Maybe you want to raise a family.
Maybe you want to devote your life to a god.
Maybe you want to live in a caravan on the sea, serving cod and chips.
Maybe you'll be eternally swell if you can just kiss a sweet pair of lips

Whatever your dream, I'm just here to remind you that you can be
whatever you want to be and you can have *anything*, you see.

Now if you're like me you're going to want it all for free.

But like me and like lots of other people like me,

in the end you're going to see

that if you want to be what you want to be

then you are going to have believe

and work real hard.

Unless you just want to be a nobody, which is real easy.

But don't worry, 'cos this crazy game is not a race,

and it's not up to me or school or TV to tell you your place.

We don't know your dream, or even what you really mean
when you say what you want to be.

It's up to you.

You've got to decide for yourself you see.

Now, tell me - what do you want to be?

Wilf Merttens

Performance Planner 1

Checklist <i>In my poem I need to...</i>		<i>My ideas and plans</i>
Compose an intro line like <i>What do YOU want to be?</i>		
Section 1	<p>Compose 6 high quality <i>Maybe you...</i> lines, detailing the jobs or things someone might want to do</p> <p>Rhyme at least two pairs of your 3 pairs of lines <i>Maybe you want to reach up, up and out to the stars</i> <i>Or maybe you want to lovingly smooth the dents out of vintage cars</i></p>	
Section 2	<p>Compose a line like, <i>But whatever you do, you've got to dream big, because life without dreams is...</i></p> <p>Write 2 powerful lines describing life without dreams using metaphors (<i>...a broken bottle, its precious contents spilt upon the step</i>)</p>	
Section 3	<p><i>Some people say...</i> Use the modal verbs (should, must, etc) in sentences saying what parents or teachers might tell someone they had to do:</p> <p>You should... You ought to... You must...</p> <p><i>But don't worry about what others tell you to do:</i> Use the modal verbs of ability Instead, You can You could You might</p>	
Compose an outro line like, <i>Remember you're free to choose - what do YOU want to be?</i>		

Performance Planner 2

Checklist <i>In my poem I need to...</i>		<i>My ideas and plans</i>
Compose some introductory lines in the style of Wilf Merttens' poem		
Section 1	<p>Compose 8 high quality <i>Maybe you...</i> lines, detailing the jobs or things someone might want to do</p> <p>Make sure each of the pairs of lines rhyme</p> <p><i>Maybe you want to reach up, up and out to the stars</i> <i>Or maybe you want to lovingly smooth the dents out of vintage cars</i></p>	
Section 2	<p>Write a series of lines explaining why dreams are so important</p> <p>Write 3 powerful lines describing a life without dreams using metaphors (<i>...a broken bottle, its precious contents spilt upon the step</i>)</p>	

Performance Planner 3

Checklist <i>In my poem I need to...</i>		My ideas and plans
Start with the line <i>What do YOU want to be?</i>		
Section 1	Compose 4 high quality <i>Maybe you...</i> lines, detailing the jobs or things someone might want to do Rhyme two of your lines <i>Maybe you want to reach up, up and out to the stars</i> <i>Or maybe you want to lovingly smooth the dents out of vintage cars</i>	
Section 2	Copy the line, <i>But whatever you do, you've got to dream big, because life without dreams is...</i> Write 1 powerful line describing a life without dreams using a metaphor (<i>...a broken bottle, its precious contents spilt upon the step</i>)	