IDENTITY

**Identity***by Julio Noboa Polanco*Let them be as flowers,
always watered, fed, guarded, admired,
but harnessed to a pot of dirt.

I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed,
clinging on cliffs, like an eagle
wind-wavering above high, jagged rocks.

To have broken through the surface of stone,
to live, to feel exposed to the madness
of the vast, eternal sky.
To be swayed by the breezes of an ancient sea,
carrying my soul, my seed,
beyond the mountains of time or into the abyss of the bizarre.

I'd rather be unseen, and if
then shunned by everyone,
than to be a pleasant-smelling flower,
growing in clusters in the fertile valley,
where they're praised, handled, and plucked
by greedy, human hands.

I'd rather smell of musty, green stench
than of sweet, fragrant lilac.
If I could stand alone, strong and free,
I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed.

IDENTITY QUESTIONS:

**Answer the following questions in your partnership.  You may discuss the questions and answers together; however, each individual in the group must have his/her own copy of the responses.**

1.       Who is the ***speaker*** of the poem?  Explain your answer.

2.       What is the ***tone***of the poem?  Give a specific example from the poem to support your answer.

3.       What is the ***mood***of the poem?  Explain your answer.

4.       Are ***alliteration*** and/or ***onomatopoeia*** present in the poem?  If so, give specific examples from the poem of each device.

5.       Are ***similes***, ***metaphor***, and/or ***personification*** present in the poem?  If so, give specific examples from the poem of each device.

6.       Is ***imagery*** present in the poem?  If so, give specific examples from the poem to support each sense present.

7.       What is the ***theme*(s)** of the poem?  Explain your answer.

8.       What is the ***extended metaphor***?  Give three specific examples from the poem that are components or extensions of this metaphor.

9.       Explain how the ***extended metaphor***supports the ***theme*** **(s)**.