Coming of Age

Fifth Grade Unit 6

**Poems**

**Freedom**

 Freedom is not following a river.

 Freedom is following a river

 though, if you want to.

 It is deciding now by what happens now.

 It is knowing that luck makes a difference.

 No leader is free; no follower is free--

 the rest of us can often be free.

 Most of the world are living by

 creeds too odd, chancy, and habit-forming

 to be worth arguing about by reason.

 If you are oppressed, wake up about

 four in the morning; most places

 you can usually be free some of the time

 if you wake up before other people.

* William Stafford

**I’m Nobody! Who are you?**

I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us -- don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know.

How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

* Emily Dickinson

**Dreams**

i used to dream militant dreams
of taking over america
to show these white folks how it should be done
i used to dream radical dreams
of blowing everyone away
with my perceptive powers of correct analysis
i even used to think
id be the one to stop the riot and negotiate the peace
then i awoke and dug
that if i dreamed natural dreams
of being a natural woman
doing what a woman does
when shes natural
i would have a revolution

* Nikki Giovanni