

**WRITING****she, he,  
them**

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**TYPE****POETRY****GENRE****GRADES 10–12**

I am more than a small waistline and an hourglass  
figure

I am powerful and wise

I am they that gave birth to a thousand generations

And forged the way for others like me to be free of  
oppression

I am many lifetimes of wisdom

I am they that fought a war few cared about but many  
saw

I am the gentle breeze and the howling wind

I am ferocious and beautiful

A painting of many colors and a stronghold for the  
weak

I am every color of the rainbow and every flavor of  
ice cream

I am kissed by the sun and hugged by the moon

I am chaos and peace and everything in between

I am a message, a warning,

I am not to be abused and manhandled

I am to be loved and respected

I will not be forced into the quiet mold of a biased society

This isn't a man's world

It's mine

I am the working woman, the toiling woman

The bend-over-backwards-for-her-children woman

But I am not the stay-at-home mother

I am not the submissive housewife

Cooking-all-day-behind-a-white-picket-fence woman

I am street smart and body smart

Cultivating a world for those like me, after me

I am a mix of races and cultures

And as Staceyann Chin said

I come in too many flavors for one f—ing spoon

I am woman