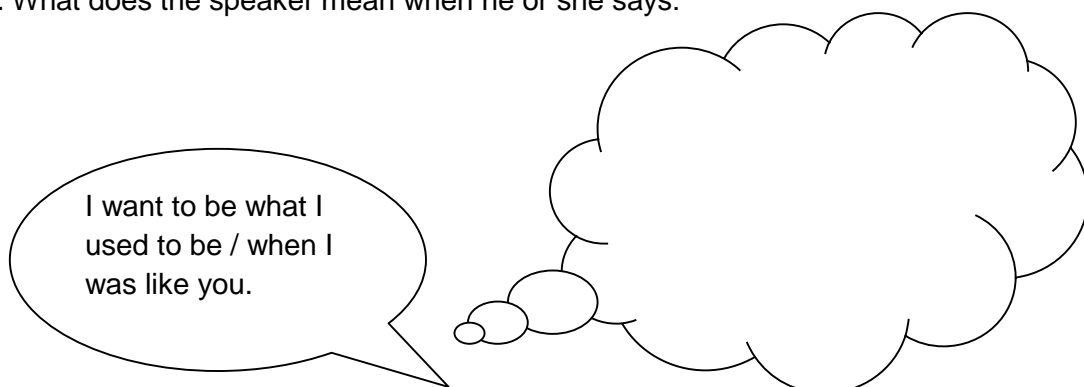


Once Upon a Time

1. What is the phrase, 'Once upon a time ...' often the opening line to?
2. Describe the elements (or ingredients) of that type of story. What usually happens at the end?
3. What similarities and differences can you see between the type of story and this poem?
4. Who is the speaker in the poem?
5. Who is he or she talking to?
6. Why is this important? Think about relationships and the type of information we give different people.
7. Find all the body parts mentioned in the poem and the words and phrases used to describe them. For example:

Body part	Description
Heart	Laugh

8. Why has Okara described them in this way?
9. What does the speaker mean by: 'homeface, / officeface, streetface, hostface, / cocktailface'?
10. What does the speaker mean when he or she says:



Write your ideas in the thought bubble.

11. Find examples of repetition in the poem and list them. Count the number of times the words and phrases are repeated and then comment on their significance, using a grid like the one below:

Word or phrase repeated	Number of times repeated	Possible significance
laugh	8	Reflects how badly the speaker wants to do this 'properly' again. He can not escape the falseness of the current laughter.

12. What do you think the poem is about? Try to summarise it in one sentence and then reduce your ideas to one word.
13. What is unusual about the final stanza of the poem? Again, think about the relationships in families and the way we pass on information to each other.
14. Can you see anything significant in the structure of the poem? Remember that for each point you make you must back it up with evidence to prove there is a reason for it. There is no point writing, 'This poem has seven stanzas,' without being explain what possible reason there could be for this.
15. Create a diagram or table to illustrate the similarities and differences between this poem and one other in the group 'Identity'.