



### Words to Know

**luminous**, very bright  
**cavern**, a large cave

### Literary Terms

**metaphor**, a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared

**simile**, a comparison using "like" or "as"

**speaker**, the character in a poem who appears to be speaking the words of the poem. It doesn't have to be the poet.

# Myself in Metaphors

**If each strand of my hair is a star,  
 my head is its own galaxy.**

**My face is the globe where I live.  
 My forehead is an open field,**

**where the furry animals  
 of my eyebrows graze.**

**My eyes are luminous bodies  
 of water, reflecting the sun.**

**My nose is like Mount Everest;  
 I imagine climbing its peak,**

**building a fire on cold nights  
 in the caverns of my nostrils.**

**I admire the canyons of my ears,  
 the slopes of my chin, my cheeks'**

**sands and tiny craters. I am stardust.  
 I am my world, and of the world.**

—by Joseph O. Legaspi

## Comprehension & Discussion Questions

1. After reading this poem, do you think the speaker likes the way he looks? What clues does he give you about his feelings?
2. This poem is filled with metaphors. Can you find three metaphors in the poem? There is one simile in this poem. Can you find the simile?
3. What do you think the speaker means in the last line when he says, "I am my world, and of the world?"

## Writing Activity

The speaker of this poem compares parts of his face to the natural world. On a separate sheet of paper, write the parts of your face: *hair, forehead, eyebrows, eyes, nose, ears, chin, and cheeks*. Then, beside each face part write something it could be compared to. Finally, turn your notes into a poem like the one above.