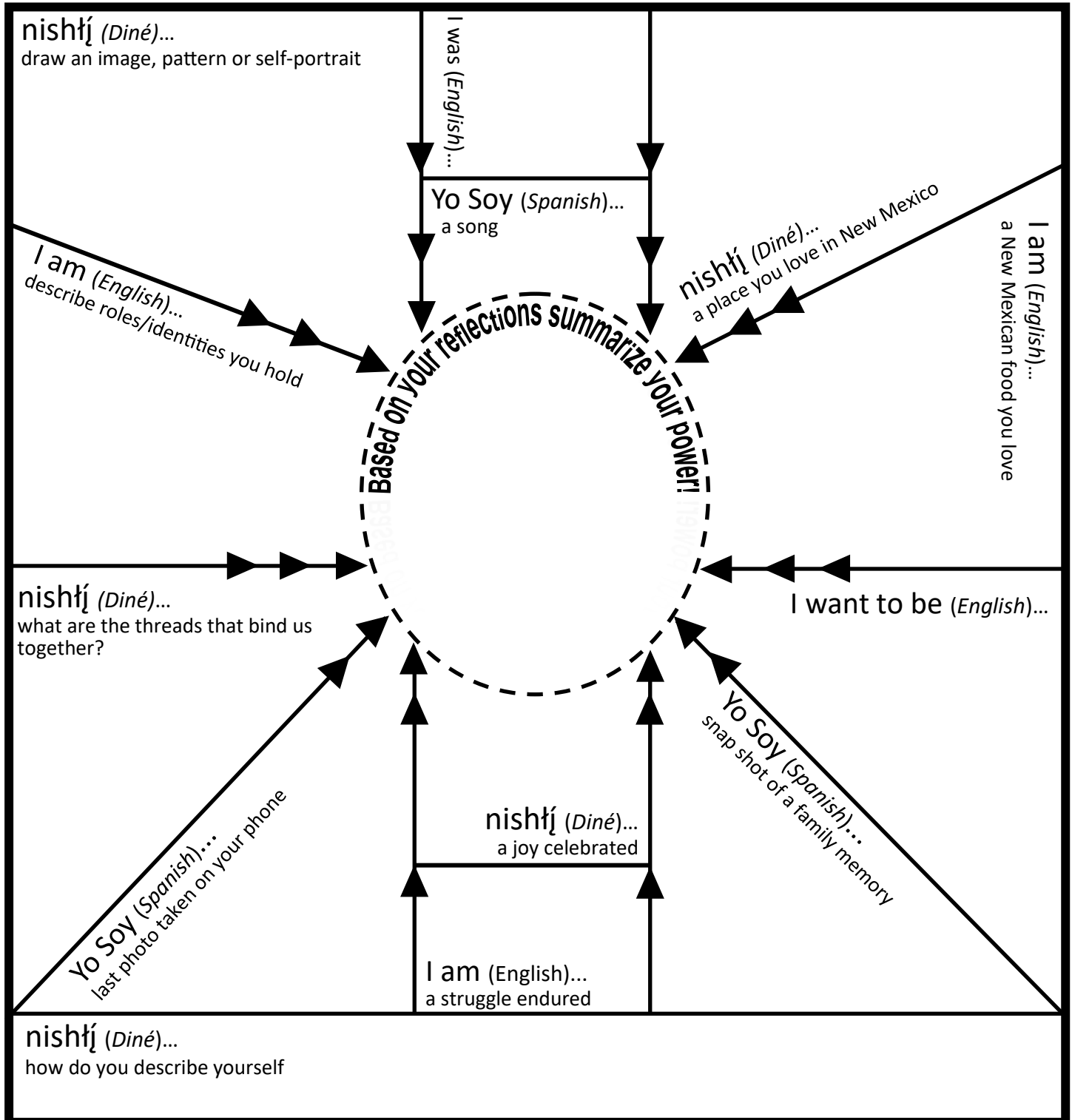


# What are your powers?

## How do they reflect what you care about?

On the other side of this page, look at excerpts from poems by Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzáles, La Chrisx, and Rex Lee Jim (*Diné*). In each poem, they take pride in who they are and where they come from. Written at different times, each of the poems illustrates the power of knowing our histories.

Inspired by these poems explore your powers by answering the questions below. Feel free to write sentences, prose or a poem, use images, song lyrics or drawings to express yourself!



## I Am Joaquin, excerpt

by **Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales in 1967**

Yo soy Joaquín,  
perdido en un mundo de confusión:  
I am Joaquín, lost in a world of confusion,  
caught up in the whirl of a gringo society,  
confused by the rules, scorned by attitudes,  
suppressed by manipulation, and destroyed by modern society.

...

I am the Maya prince.  
I am Nezahualcóyotl, great leader of the Chichimecas.  
I am the sword and flame of Cortes the despot  
And I am the eagle and serpent of the Aztec civilization.  
I owned the land as far as the eye  
could see under the Crown of Spain,  
and I toiled on my Earth and gave my Indian sweat and blood  
for the Spanish master who ruled with tyranny over man and  
beast and all that he could trample  
But...THE GROUND WAS MINE.  
I was both tyrant and slave.

## La Loca de la Raza Cosmica, excerpt

A Feminist response to "I am Joaquin"

by **La Chrisx in 1978**

*Dedico este trabajo a las mujeres Chicanas  
Esta dedicado a las Locas/ a las reinas de la Raza Cosmica*

For as different as we all may seem,  
When intricacies are compared  
We are all one,  
And the same.  
Soy la Mujer Chicana, una maravilla  
Soy tan simple como la capiotada  
And at the same time I am as complicated to understand as the  
Aztec Pyramids.  
Soy la Reina de la Raza Cosmica (al estilo Califas)  
Soy señorita  
Soy ruca loca  
Soy mujeron  
Soy Santa  
Soy madre  
Soy Ms.  
Soy la India Maria  
Soy la Adelita  
Soy Radical  
Soy la Revolucionaria

## Voice, excerpt

(translated from Diné)

by **Rex Lee Jim in 1995**

In the beginning I am  
Yesterday I am  
Today I am  
Tomorrow I am  
Forever I am  
    Voice I am  
    Sacred voice I am  
    Sacred voice this I am

People think with me  
People pray with me  
People sing with me  
People speak with me  
People plan with me  
People live with me  
    Voice I am  
    Sacred voice I am  
    Sacred voice this I am

I come in many forms  
Because of me people think differently  
Because of me people pray differently  
Because of me people sing differently  
Because of me people speak differently  
Because of me people plan differently  
Because of me people live differently

**NMHM**  
NEW MEXICO  
**HISTORY**  
**MUSEUM**

113 Lincoln Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
505-476-5200  
NewMexicoHistoryMuseum.org