

Questions on Identity Card by Mahmoud Darwish:

1. The poem repeats the question “Does that anger you?” three times. In one instance, however, the refrain changes to “Does my condition anger you?” What does that change mean? Reread the poem to interpret its significance.
2. With the exception of the last, each stanza repeats a variation of “write down: Arab.” Look at the differences in the way that directive is given in each stanza and the context surrounding it. What is Darwish saying about identity? About being Arab?
3. Consider the significance of the title “Identity Card.” How do you think the speaker feels about the concept of an identity card?