

**MY SELF****Shawn N.***age 17**Idaho Youth Ranch resident**December, 1991*

Sometimes I feel sad  
I often get mad  
But this doesn't mean I'm bad

I have had families and homes  
I've been lucky, with no broken bones  
I was abused in very many ways  
Day after day, for so many days

I learned how to survive when I was only young  
But I never ever seem to be done  
I want to be old, I want to be free  
I want so many things, but I want to be me

My mother never protected me  
My father never cared  
My grandpa sexually abused me  
Me tell? I never dared

All this is behind me  
Though its affecting me today  
I have to prove myself to me  
I'm gonna try in every way

I want to be me, I want to be me  
If I just had to do one thing  
I would work on being me  
I love the Winter, I love the Spring  
If I could have anyone, it would have to be me.