

# Celebrating Writers and Writing in our Communities

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## I Come From A Place Called Hoopa

Carmen Ferris

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# I Come From A Place Called Hoopa

by Carmen Ferris

**I come** from a place called Hoopa

**My home** is on the Rez

where I go to the store  
and people say, "You are beautiful....  
just like your mother."

**I carry** the swallowtail necklace my grandfather made for me  
on a silver chain around my neck

**I offer** the language of my people

He: yung  
I know some words  
not all  
that's better than none at all

**I come from a place called Hoopa**

**I come** from the bald eagle flying in the air

**My home** is with the black bear eating a steelhead  
by the river

**I carry** a salmon on the end of my fishing pole

**I offer** to care for my people

**I come from a place called Hoopa**

If I were not Native who would I be?

How could I ever try to change

and be someone else but me  
how could I ever want to change  
the color of my skin or  
where I come from

how could someone not want  
to be Native

like me

