Jordan Hoffman

Period 2

5/4/14

Where I’m From Poem (Maya)

I am from the Maya…

I am from Chichen Itza and Tulum

Sprawling epicenters of trade and religion

With architectural feats that touch the highest clouds

I am from lowlands enveloped in jungles and volcanic highlands

Where obsidian and jade has allowed us to prosper

And maize has sustained us

I am from Pacal the Great

Ruler of Palenque

Whose Temple of the Inscriptions still stands to this day

I am from drums, flutes, and rattles

Playing lost songs and memories

And art that is evidence

To the sweat, toil, and hard work that was put into every

Statue, temple, drawing, and painting

I am from “He who walks without looking will fall into trouble”

And “If you look at clouds your work will not progress”

I am from the Planting of the Maize

Praying and offering the night before to the Gods

The smell of incense in the air

I am from corn tortillas, a staple in our diet

To cacao beans, a gift from the gods

Bittersweet, we barter with them

I am from Gods that demand offerings

Relying upon human blood at times

For they control the world around us

I am from bloody ball games

Where life hangs in the balance

A single point leading to death or glory

I am from a deep understanding of astronomy

A calendar that is too advanced for its time

And codex’s that tell our story

I am from the Maya…