

“Where I'm From”

By: George Ella Lyon

I am from clothespins,
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the back porch.
(Black, glistening,
it tasted like beets.)
I am from the forsythia bush
the Dutch elm
whose long-gone limbs I remember
as if they were my own.

I'm from fudge and eyeglasses,
from Imogene and Alafair.
I'm from the know-it-alls
and the pass-it-ons,
from Perk up! and Pipe down!
I'm from He restoreth my soul
with a cottonball lamb
and ten verses I can say myself.

I'm from Artemus and Billie's Branch,
fried corn and strong coffee.
From the finger my grandfather lost
to the auger,
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.

Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
asift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments--
snapped before I budded --
leaf-fall from the family tree.

Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet, 1989

1. Describe the physical setting of the poet's life (ie: what physical place is she from? How do you know?):

2. What is the poet's family like? How do you know?

3. If you could describe the poet's life in 2-3 sentences, what would you say based on the poem?

“I am From” Poem Template...

I am from _____ (specific ordinary item), from _____ (product name) and _____.

I am from the _____ (home description... adjective, adjective, sensory detail).

I am from the _____ (plant, flower, natural item), the _____ (plant, flower, natural detail)

I am from _____ (family tradition) and _____ (family trait), from _____ (name of family member) and _____ (another family name) and _____ (family name).

I am from the _____ (description of family tendency) and _____ (another one).

From _____ (something you were told as a child) and _____ (another).

I am from (representation of religion, or lack of it). Further description.

I'm from _____ (place of birth and family ancestry), _____ (two food items representing your family).

From the _____ (specific family story about a specific person and detail), the _____ (another detail, and the _____ (another detail about another family member).

I am from _____ (location of family pictures, mementos, archives and several more lines indicating their worth).

“I am From...” by: Mrs. Peck

I am from tattered book covers, from Beau Jo's pizza and wide open horizons.

I am from a powdery snowfall that dances in wisps around old forsaken windmills.

I am from Columbine flowers, pine needles and Aspen trees

I am from Mom's Cranberry Ice on Thanksgiving and mistake-makers that keep rebounding, from Taylor and Kristen and “Kemps are forever.”

I am from speak your mind and apologize later, and share a little too much at the dinner table.

From “you're the cream in the Oreo” and “don't you want to play soccer too?”

I am from the sound of voices lifted up in worship, from church doors I walked through entirely on my own.

I'm from southern roots I don't really connect to, and homemade spaghetti sauce Dad requests every birthday.

From the time my family left me alone in snowshoes on a golf course, the time they ran ahead in athletic glory, the time I stayed up all night to make sure Taylor was okay.

I am from photos across a curtain rod, Grandma's knit stockings on the mantel, and a togetherness that never ceases to fulfill.