

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,
a sift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.**

**I am from those moments--
snapped before I budded --
leaf-fall from the family tree.**

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

“Where I’m From” Template/Draft

Directions: Fill in the blanks today. You will copy the entire poem with your words filled in and create a visual to go with it. You will NOT make a final copy with the words contained in the parenthesis! Leave those out!

Due Dates:

This sheet: _____

Look for magazine pictures, your pictures, etc. to represent your visual ____ TODAY ____

Final copy due _____

First Stanza:

I am from (specific ordinary item) _____

from (product name) _____ **and** (another product name) _____

I am from the (home description) _____

Adjective that describes the above home description _____, _____

It (tasted, sounded, looked, felt –choose one) _____

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

the (plant, flower, or natural item) _____

(Description of natural item) _____

I’m from the (family tradition) _____ **and** (family trait) _____

from (name of family member) _____ **and** (name of family member) _____

and (another name) _____

I’m from the (description of family tendency) _____ **and**

(Another family tendency) _____

Second Stanza.....turn over

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

I'm from (representation of religious or spiritual beliefs or lack of it) _____,
(further description of spiritual beliefs) _____

I'm from (place of birth and family ancestry) _____,
(Two food items that represent your ancestry) _____ **and** _____.

From the (specific family story with a detail about a specific person) _____

the (another detail of another family member) _____.

(Location of family pictures...You pick the preposition) _____

I am from (general statement with DETAILS about who you are or where you are from) _____
