

Where I'm From
by George Ella Lyons

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.

The WHERE I'M FROM Template

I am from 1) _____
(specific ordinary item),

from 2) _____
(product name)

and 3) _____

I am from the 4) _____
(home description... adjective, adjective, sensory detail).

I am from the 5) _____

(plant, flower, natural item),

the 6) _____
(plant, flower, natural detail)

I am from 7) _____
(family tradition)

and 8) _____
(family trait),

from 9) _____
(name of family member)

and 10) _____
(another family name)

and 11) _____
(family name).

I am from the 12) _____
(description of family tendency)

and 13) _____

(another one).

**From 14) _____
(something you were told as a child)**

**and 15) _____
(another thing you were told as a child).**

**I am from 16) _____
(representation of religion, or lack of it). Further description.**

**I'm from 17) _____
(place of birth and family ancestry),**

**18) _____
(two food items representing your family).**

**From the 19) _____
(specific family story about a specific person and detail),**

**the 20) _____
(another detail, and**

**the 21) _____
(another detail about another family member).**

**I am from 22) _____
(location of family pictures, mementos, archives and several more
lines indicating their worth).**

