

## Where I'm From Poem

### Original Poem:

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.

### Model Poem:

Where I'm From

*By Ms. Vaca*

I am from bookshelves,  
from vinegar and green detergent.  
I am from the dog hair in every corner  
(Yellow, abundant,  
the vacuum could never get it all.)  
I am from azaleas  
the magnolia tree  
whose leaves crunched under my feet like  
snow  
every fall.  
I'm from puzzles and sunburns,  
from Dorothy Ann and Mary Christine  
Catherine  
I'm from reading and road trips  
From "Please watch your brother" and  
"Don't let your brother hit you!"  
I'm from Easter sunrises and Iowa  
churches at Christmas  
I'm from Alexandria and the Rileys,  
Sterzing's potato chips and sponge candy.  
From my Air Force dad's refusal to go to  
Vietnam,  
from my mom's leaving home at 17.  
On a low shelf in my new house is a stack  
of photo albums,  
carefully curated by my faraway father,  
chronicling my childhood.  
I am from these pages,  
yellowed but firm,  
holding on to me across the country.

## Where I'm From Poem

*Use this template to draft your poem, and then write a final draft on blank paper to share.*

I am from \_\_\_\_\_  
(specific ordinary item)

From \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(product name) (product name)

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_  
(home description)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(adjective) (adjective) (sensory detail)

I am from \_\_\_\_\_,  
(plant, flower, natural item)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(description of above item)

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(family tradition) (family trait)

From \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of family member) (another family name)

I'm from the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(description of family tendency) (another one)

From \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(something you were told as a child) (another one)

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_,  
(representation of religion or lack of) (further description)

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_  
(place of birth and family ancestry)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(a food item that represents your family) (another one)

## Where I'm From Poem

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(specific family story about a specific person and detail)

The \_\_\_\_\_  
(another detail of another family member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(location of family pictures, mementos, archives)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(line explaining the importance of family items)