

Name: _____

Due Date: _____

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.

Where I'm From Template

(Use this to create your own poem.)

I am from (specific ordinary item)
from (product name) and (product name)
I am from the (home description)
(adjective, adjective,
sensory detail)
I am from the (plant/flower/tree/natural item)
the (plant/flower/tree/natural item)
(description of
the natural item).

I'm from (family tradition) and (family trait)
from (family member) and (family member)
I'm from the (description of family tendency)
and the (another description of family tendency)
from (a family saying) and (another family saying).
I'm from (a song your family sang in church or elsewhere)
(something related to the music)
and (something else related to the music).

I'm from (place of birth) and (another landmark near your house),
(two food items representing your family).
From the (specific family story about a specific person
and a detail),
the (another detail of another family member).

(Location of family pictures/mementos/memories
and several
more
lines
indicating
their
worth.)