

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.

<http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html>

“Where I’m From” Template

(Use this to create your own poem. Insert your own details.)

I am from (specific ordinary item),
from (product name) and (product name).
I am from the (specific place in your childhood home).
(Adjective, adjective,
sensory statement.)
I am from the (plant, flower, or tree at your childhood home)
the (another plant, flower, or tree at your childhood home)
(a detailed description of this last plant, flower, or tree
and what it meant to you).

I'm from (family tradition) and (family trait),
from (parent) and (parent).
I'm from the (description of family tendency)
and the (description of another family tendency),
from (a family saying) and (another family saying).
I'm from (a song your family sang in church or elsewhere)
with (something you made in church or elsewhere)
and (something you learned in church or elsewhere).

I'm from (your childhood neighborhood) and (a nearby landmark),
(two items that your family likes to eat or drink).
From the (specific detail about something that happened to one
person in your family),
the (a detail about another family member).

(Location of family pictures, mementos, memories
and a metaphor
or simile
that
shows
how much they mean
to you.)