

Name: _____

"Where I'm From"

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.

By George Ella Lyon

Excerpt: "In the summer of 1993, I decided to see what would happen if I made my own where-I'm-from lists, which I did, in a black and white speckled composition book. I edited them into a poem --- not my usual way of working --- but even when that was done I kept on making the lists. The process was too rich and too much fun to give up after only one poem. Realizing this, I decided to try it as an exercise with other writers, and it immediately took off. The list form is simple and familiar, and the question of where you are from reaches deep."

Name: _____

Poetry Analysis Chart

Name: _____

Author: _____

Author:

Title of Poem:

Copy line from poem in quotes:

line
number:

**Interpretation of line
in my own words:**

Literary Devices & Meaning:
(simile, metaphor, personification,
onomatopoeia, alliteration, symbolism, etc.)

[illegible]

OVERALL THEME OF POEM:

Name: _____

Where I'm From Poem

TEMPLATE

Stanza 1

I am from _____ (specific ordinary item—something you like),

from _____ (product BRAND name) and _____
(product name).

I am from the _____ (home description). Use sensory detail

_____ (adjective), _____ (adjective), Adjectives describe nouns.

_____ (sensory detail).

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

the _____ (plant, flower, natural item)

_____ (description of the
natural item).

Stanza 2

I'm from _____ (family tradition) and
_____ (family tradition), from
_____ (name of family member) and
_____ (another name of family member).

"tendencies" =
things your family
tends to do

I'm from _____ (description of family tendency) and
the _____ (another family tendency),

from _____ (something you are often told) and
_____ (something else you are often told).

I'm from _____ (belief that represents where you are
from) _____

_____ (further description of belief).

Stanza 3

I'm from _____ (family ancestry),
_____ and _____ (two food
items that represent your family).

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

The _____ (another detail of another family
member).

Stanza 4 (more than one line!)

I am from . . . (something in your past)

I am from . . . (something in the present)

I am from . . . (open for you to decide what to say)

(Conclusion)

