

**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 am 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 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

# Am From..." Poem Template

*Adapted from a template by Levi Romero and inspired by "Where I'm From" by George Ella Lyon*

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ (a specific item from your childhood home)

from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (two products or objects from your past)

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_ (A part/distinctive characteristic from your childhood town or home)

and \_\_\_\_\_ (a sensory detail about your home – a smell, taste, or feel)

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_ (a plant, tree or natural object from your past) who \_\_\_\_\_ (how that natural object loved or changed you. Or told you something important about life)

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

from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (two family names or ancestors)

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (two family traits or tendencies)

from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (things you were told as a child)

and \_\_\_\_\_ (a song or saying you learned as a child)

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ (family ancestry, nationality or place)

and \_\_\_\_\_ (family or cultural foods)

From \_\_\_\_\_ (a story about a family member)

\_\_\_\_\_ (description of family mementos, pictures or treasures.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (location of mementos – under my bed, on the wall, in my heart)

which taught me about

\_\_\_\_\_ (name a one or two word emotion or trait. i.e. "taught me about loving well." "taught me humility and who I am.)