

Where I'm From

George Ella Lyons

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 cotton ball 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.

Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Date: _____

**“Where I’m From”
Shadow Poem Assignment Rubric**

_____ (25 Points) The final product has qualities of poetry, rather than prose. (The poem is written in phrases and stanzas rather than sentences and paragraphs.)

_____ (25 Points) The poem includes at least four stanzas and loosely follows the original version of the poem “Where I’m From.”

_____ (25 Points) The poem is generally free of spelling and grammar errors, and it shows that time and care have been taken to ensure that the poem is above “standard” quality!

_____ (25 Points) The student has obviously gone above and beyond to make his/her poem represent him/her. Not only has the student used creative language, but he/she has also made the poem exceptionally appealing- with colors, designs, and/or technology.

Where I'm From Poem **TEMPLATE**

Stanza 1

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, 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).

I'm from the _____ (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

_____. (Conclusion.)

**** Once you finish filling out the template, copy your poem onto a fresh piece of paper. ****