

Name: _____

Directions: Read the following poem by George Ella Lyon and then discuss the question at the bottom of the page with a partner. Then on the following page, fill in each of the blanks in the poem structure, to create a poem about what people, places, and things create your identity.

Where I'm From

by George Ella Lyon

I am from clothespins,
from Clorox and carbontetrachloride.
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.

Question: Is the author describing a specific geographical location? If not, what do you think the author means by "Where I'm From"?

Where I'm From

by _____

I am from _____ (item your parent or guardian uses),

from _____ (item that exists in your home)

and _____ (item that you use in school).

I am from the _____ (your favorite place).

(describe your favorite place through touch, taste, and smell words)

I am from the _____ (a plant at your home or your favorite flower).

I'm from _____ (your favorite food)

and _____ (an item of clothing you wear),

from _____ and _____ (family members or pet's names).

I'm from the _____ and

_____ (phrases your parents or guardians frequently say).

I'm from _____ (your favorite line from a book).

I'm from _____ (your favorite food or meal)

From _____ (a memory you have of your family)

(think of a final line to close your poem).