

Name: _____

»»»»» Where I'm From Poem «««««

What:

We will be writing creative poems about ourselves, modeled after the famous poem by George Ella Lyon, "Where I'm From".

How:

First, we will read the poem "Where I'm From", learn about George Ella Lyon, and look at a few student examples for some inspiration.

Next, we will complete our planning sheets. As you fill out the planning sheets, be as creative, thorough, and detailed as possible. This will help make your poem really excellent.

Then, we will use our planning sheets to complete a rough draft of our poem.

After, we will edit our drafts and ask ourselves if we can make the poem more creative.

Finally, we will write our good copy poems.

Tips:

When filling out your planning sheet, it will be easy to list the most obvious answers. Don't opt for only the obvious responses! Really think about providing the most unique responses to the questions and prompts listed. This means that you will need to think back to past examples, significant points in your life. It is ok if the planning takes you longer than normal!

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!

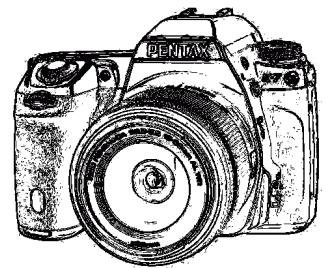
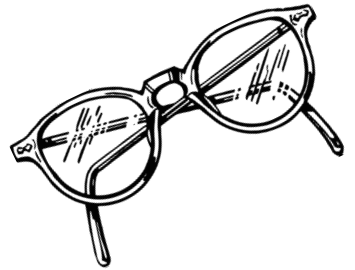
I'm from He restoreth my soul
with a cottonball lamb
and ten verses I can say myself.

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.



Student Inspiration:

‘Where I’m From...’

I am from sweet smells,
New books and paper. Reusable shopping bags,
And sprinkle coated ice-cream that taste so good on hot days.
From Germany and England,
My bed, chair, and couch.

I am from my family,
My mom, dad, sister, and Grandma
That comfort me when I'm sad.
I am from "I can hear you up there!"
To, "Go for it!"
From the old story of 'Princess Kate'

I am from the sugary taste of mint chocolate chip ice-cream,
And salty, orange Play Dough
From chicken frying on the grill,
And candy apples waiting on a napkin.

I am from the beautiful pictures of my family,
Coming from my mind,
my pink, glistening camera, and my quilted scrap-book
It is these memories I will never forget.

‘Where I’m From...’

I am from hairspray
From braces and rubber bands.
I am from lightning bugs
Fluttering in the summer night sky.

I am from Belle
The cute little puppy
We rescued from the pound
And Smoky the cat
Whose death still touches my heart.

I am from Papaw's goulash
And Momma's pumpkin pie
From Dad's overbearing
Protectiveness of his little girl.

I am from outrageous
Eleven foot Christmas trees
And joyous Thanksgiving feasts.

I am from French immigrants
From 1692 and New Paltz, New York

I am from Louis Bevier and Marie Le Blanc

I am from the American dream
From broken despair and gained hope
I am from the present, past, and future,
History in the making

‘Where I’m From...’

I am from rivers, from beaches and lobster pots.
I am from salty oceans
which make me shiver in the cold.
I am from the Mouth of the Merrimack River
the roughest place on the East Coast
Which I go through every summer day
I know it by heart.

I'm from Cranmore and skiing from Dexter and Peyton
I'm from the bankers,
and the doctors
from "Go Fast or Go Home"
I'm from stories about my brother
and lullabies my dad made up for us as babies.
I'm from Andrea and Brady
Barbecue and chicken fingers
from the hysterical songs about my brother
all making me lucky.

In a room, I have baseball trophies
that I will cherish all my life
I am from those times
that whizzed by so fast
that all belong to my home.

‘Where I’m From...’

I am from baths in the kitchen sink,
From Downy and Mom's perfume
I am from flowers by the fence
(yellow and springy, they tasted like crayons).
I am from the ivy crawling up the house,
The baby tree whose sturdy trunk shot from the ground
A mirror image of my planted feet.

I am from sprinkles and plastic table donut shops
From Bert and Ernie
I am from stupid heads and dot dot I got my cootie shot
From don't touch this and don't touch that.
I'm from Hymn No. 96 and why is this piece of bread so small?
And bible crafts made from neon pipe cleaners.

I'm from Bill and Darlene's branch
From hot soup and freshly baked corn bread
From the Well, when I was little's and the snowy games
Told to me by Green Bay Packer season ticket holders
In the storage room are boxes
Overflowing with shiny, color-coated memories
Bundles of dreams kept alive
To ask my mother about.

I am from those moments
A leaf changing color with the weather
Time only strengthens the branch that holds me.

Where I'm From Poem Planning Guide

Now it is time to plan your poem. Fill in each box using the prompts provided on the following pages. Aim for at least five pieces of information in each box! It is always ok to write more than five pieces of information if there is a box that you have a lot of information for.

When you plan:

- ✓ Remember to include as much detail as possible.
- ✓ Choose unique answers to the questions.
- ✓ Take your time! Some of the prompts will require you to really think! It is ok if planning is taking you longer than expect. More information now will give you lots of options later when you draft.
- ✓ If you are stuck, look at the student examples provided, or the original George Ella Lyon poem for inspiration.
- ✓ Take out the thesaurus to assist you in finding high quality words to use! Vivid description always elevates our writing.

Everyday items that you see:	Products or objects from your life that you frequently use:
Description of your home or past homes:	Plant, flower, or natural items that are important to you:

Description of your family (family members, pets, etc):	Family traditions:
Family Traits (physical or personality):	Advice, phrases, or sayings that are common in your family:

<p>Descriptions of unique things that only your family does:</p>	<p>Where is your family from? This could be many places or just one place. This could be where your ancestors lived, or it could be where you were born:</p>
<p>Food items that you eat commonly or that your family is known for:</p>	<p>Does your family have a religion? Do you celebrate any religious holidays? If so, what are they and what do you do?</p>

Stories that your family tells:

Sensory details from your life:

Specific memories that you can vividly recall:

Where do you store your memories (Photo albums?
Picture frames?):