

# Autobiography Portfolio Piece #5.

Worth 2 minor grades

☞ +5 for typing.

**Where I'm From:** Using George Ella Lyon's poem below as your inspiration, compile a list of specifics that reveal your roots. Specificity is the key – exact things, places, traditions, sayings...Let where and what and who you are from reveal how you have become who you are now. (additional help/instructions on next page)

## **“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.

**Additional Instructions:** Read and answer the questions below. **First**, you will use your answers to these questions to write your own poem titled “Where I’m From.” **Next**, Neatly write or type your poem on a separate sheet of paper.

### ***Where I'm From***

1. What are 3-5 objects/elements found in your yard or some outdoor place you love to go?  
***I am from...(those things)***
2. What are 3-5 things you would rush from your home in the case of a fire?  
***I am from...(those things)***
3. What are the names of relatives, friends, teachers or others who link you to your past?  
***I am from...(those people)***
4. What are the names of animals you've loved or love?  
***I am from...(those animals)***
5. What are a few sayings you remember from childhood?  
***I am from...(those sayings)***
6. What are names of foods and dishes that recall family gatherings or childhood?  
***I am from...(those foods)***
7. What are books or songs or television/films you loved growing up?  
***I am from...(those books, songs, or shows)***
8. What are smells you associate with your family and extended family?  
***I am from...(those smells)***
9. What are a few things you learned to do or achieved on your own that you're proud of accomplishing?  
***I am from...(those things you learned or achieved)***
10. What are names of places you remember from childhood?  
***I am from...(those places)***
11. What are childhood dreams you held? What did you want to be when you grew up?  
***I am from...(those dreams)***
12. What are 3 items that represent your beliefs?  
***I am from...(those items)***
13. What are 3 values you hold dear?  
***I am from...(those values)***
14. What else communicates where you are from?  
***I am from...***