

“Where I’m From” Teacher’s Notes

Quickwrite on how a person’s family, background, values, etc. have impacted the person she is today.

Listen the poet’s reading of the poem: <http://georgeellalyon.com/where.html>

Explain importance of reading poetry aloud.

Model jot notes for first stanza to identify what the reader infers about the speaker.

Groups complete jot notes for remaining stanzas and share after each stanza.

Using template, model how to create an imitation poem. The teacher will need to have completed the poem and an accompanying visual.

Individually, students create imitation poems and visuals. (Some of this can be done in class, some as homework. Time and external hindrances will dictate.)

Teachers may wish to allow students electronic options. (You might like to complete one of these and post it on your web page as an example.)

On an assigned date, students present their poems and visuals. If time is a challenge, the visual may be omitted from this portion.

(Students could share their word digitally. (Notability or Explain Everything will enable them to record their own voices reading their poems.)

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 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 _____ Period _____ Date _____

"Where I'm From" Template/Draft

Directions: Fill in the blanks today. You will copy the entire poem with your words filled in and create a visual to go with it. You will NOT make a final copy with the words contained in the parentheses! Leave those out!

Due Dates:

This sheet: _____

Look for magazine pictures, your pictures, etc. to represent your visual ____ TODAY ____

Final copy due _____

First Stanza:

I am from (specific ordinary item) _____

from (product name) _____ **and** (another product name) _____

I am from the (home description) _____

Adjective that describes the above home description _____, _____

It (tasted, sounded, looked, felt –choose one) _____ **I**

am from the (plant, flower, or natural item) _____,

the (plant, flower, or natural item) _____

(Description of natural item) _____

I'm from the (family tradition) _____ **and** (family

trait) _____ **from** (name of family member) _____ **and** (name of

family member) _____ **and** (another name) _____

I'm from the (description of family tendency) _____ **and**

(Another family tendency) _____

Second Stanza.... over

From (something you were told as a child) _____ **and**

(another thing you were told as a child) _____

I'm from (representation of religious or spiritual beliefs or lack of it) _____,

(further description of spiritual beliefs) _____

I'm from (place of birth and family ancestry) _____,

(Two food items that represent your ancestry) _____ **and** _____.

From the (specific family story with a detail about a specific person) _____

the (another detail of another family member) _____.

(Location of family pictures...You pick the preposition) _____

I am from (general statement with DETAILS about who you are or where you are from) _____
