**Where I'm From**

**By 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 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.

**Your job: Try to write your own “Where I’m From” poem by following the outline below. Be as creative as you possibly can! Think outside the box and try to capture who you are! Use George Ella Lyons poem as a model for yours!**

WHERE I'M FROM

I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (specific ordinary item), from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (product name) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (home description... adjective, adjective, sensory detail).

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (plant, flower, natural item), the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (plant, flower, natural detail)

I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (family tradition) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (family trait), from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of family member) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (another family name) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (family name).

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (description of family tendency) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (another one).

From \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (something you were told as a child) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (another).

I am from (representation of religion, or lack of it). Further description.

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (place of birth and family ancestry), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two food items representing your family).

From the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (specific family story about a specific person and detail), the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (another detail, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (another detail about another family member).

I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (location of family pictures, mementos, archives and several more lines indicating their worth).