

# Week of May 26

## 8th Grade Language Arts

### Mrs. Kolo

This week you will be thinking about some of the things that make you who you are and then writing a poem about it. Don't worry, you will be guided every step of the way and your poem will be easy to write. I HOPE it will be fun as well.

Steps:

- 1: Read the poem "Where I'm From" by George Ella Lyons carefully
2. Look at the template on the next page. Read it through the whole way and then go back and start filling in the blanks. You can fill it in with words, phrases or sentences. You can have more than one example for any of the lines if you want. You can have lots of detail words or very few. It is up to you. Read your lines out loud as you write them. Poetry is like music - it is meant to be heard.
3. When you finish, make sure that you center your text like the sample poems. You can choose where you want your lines to break - it's all about your gut feeling. Look carefully back at the first poem to see what I mean.

Here is the original poem:

*Where I'm From*  
by George Ella Lyons

I am from clothespins,  
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.  
I am from the dirt under the black 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 cotton ball 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.

Here are a few samples from other students:

<p><b>“I’m From the Woods....”</b> by Nick</p>	<p><b>Where I’m From....</b> by Lauren</p>
<p>I’m from the woods and the creek behind my  fence  From the gray wooden backyard deck.  I’m from the honeysuckles,  The pear trees by the neighbor’s garden  From the creek when I swing over it.</p> <p>I’m from the yellow walls of Grandma’s  kitchen  From the Yorkshire pup, the coolest thing in  my family.  I’m from macaroni pictures of the Ark  From “I just can’t snap my fingers and make  it happen” and from David the Gnome in  summers long ago.</p> <p>I’m from my mom’s side of the family,  From roasting turkeys for each holiday,  From when Papaw yelled at his boss and got  fired  From the family pictures in the big wooden  cabinet and  From the family gathering when we drag  them out.</p> <p>I am from those moments.  A root that no one sees, but walks all over  An important part of the tree.”</p>	<p>I ‘m 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’m from sprinkles and plastic table donut  shops  From Bert and Ernie  I’m 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.</p>

## The *WHERE I'M FROM* Template

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 or something else that is important to you). 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).