

Activity: "Where I'm From"

Take some time to write your own version of "Where I'm From" while you reflect on your own origin story and on God's presence in it. Use George Ella Lyon's poem as your guide. You can make notes on the blank side of the page here, or, if you need more structure, use the worksheet included on the back. Try to make this a prayerful exercise.

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.

"Where I'm From" Template/Worksheet

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) _____

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) _____.