



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

DIVISION of
LIBRARY and
INFORMATION SERVICES



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WHERE I'M FROM:

A Poetry Workshop You Can Do With Your Library Teens!



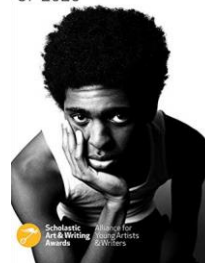
HELLO!

My name is Isabella Ramírez, and I am an 18-year-old poet from Lake Worth, FL.

<https://linktr.ee/isabellasramirez>



THE BEST TEEN **WRITING**
OF 2020



TYPE IN THE CHAT..

Your name, your hometown, and something that makes you feel nostalgic/reminds you of your childhood.

Ex. Isabella Ramírez, Lake Worth, FL, and passion fruit juice.



Prepare to unmute and share!



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.*

georgeellalyon.com/where.html



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from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the back porch,
(Black, glistening,
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I am from the forsythia bush
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*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 then 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 –
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WHAT FEELING DOES THIS POEM EVOKE?

What are some of your favorite lines from this piece?

What do you find the most interesting about this poem?

Think about the title “Where I’m From.” How would the meaning of the poem change if the title were “Who I Am?”



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “FROM” SOMEWHERE?

Is “where you’re from” a physical place, or is it a community? Is it your family, your friends, or your neighbors? All of the above?



Prepare to unmute and share!

NOW...

Make a list of “where you’re from.” This may include physical places, foods, holidays, family sayings, stories from growing up, family members or friends, scenery, smells, sounds, etc.

Ex. My list: Lake Worth, suburbs, beaches, maracuya (passion fruit juice), tostones, plantains, first-ever Thanksgivings, two generations of single mothers, overgrown houseplants, backyard Muscovy “turkey” ducks, “Spanglish,” mini SUVs, (...)



~5 minutes to write your list!

WRITE A POEM..

Using your list of where you're from. You may use George Ella Lyon's model and start your piece with "I am from ...," or you may take it in any direction you'd like.

Tip: Don't worry too much about your poem being "good" or having beautiful figurative language. Write what comes to you first and trust your gut; the metaphors will then naturally follow.




~15 minutes to write your poem!






SHARE!

THANK YOU!

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CREDITS: This presentation template was created by [Slidesgo](#), including icons by [Flaticon](#), infographics & images by [Freepik](#).



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