



The original *Where I'm From* poem:

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 cottontail 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,

to 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.