

Name _____

Date _____
Period _____

"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 am 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.

Directions:

1. Choose a central character from *The Killer Angels*—one you liked or were intrigued by
2. Fill out this sheet, using only words from *The Killer Angels*
3. Think about things that are SPECIFIC to that character that make him special. Think about things he did, saw, tasted, touched, said, felt and heard
4. You want to try and give us the most robust, complete understanding of the character as possible
5. Combine answers from sheet in a creative way to reflect style and form of Lyons's poem. TYPE it please! At least 130 words. Make sure it says, at the bottom of the page, Inspired by George Ella Lyons's "Where I'm From" with text taken from *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara.

SEE: (write a list of things he saw—use exact words & page numbers)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SMELL: (write a list of things he smelled—use exact words & page numbers)

1. _____
2. _____

HEAR: (write a list of things he heard/things spoken to him—exact words & pg. #'s)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

TOUCH/FEEL: (write a list of things he felt, incl. emotions—use exact words & pg. #'s)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

TASTE: (write a list of things he tasted—literally or metaphorically—use exact words & page numbers)

1. _____
2. _____

Write down any memories or flashbacks he experienced (use exact quotes & pg #'s):

Write down and describe any important family information (exact quotes/pg #'s):

Write down and describe any of his hobbies/special interests (exact quote & pg #):

Write down any interesting or important details about his past (exact quote & pg #):

Write down something that people ALWAYS say about him (exact quote & pg #):

Write something (good or bad) that people often say TO him (exact quote & pg #):

Write down any names he goes by other than his biological one:

“Where I’m From”

By _____ (name of your character)

I am from _____,
from _____.

I am from _____.
(_____
_____.)

I am from _____,

_____.

I am from _____,
from _____.

I’m from _____,

from _____!

I’m from _____

_____.

I’m from _____,
_____.

From _____

_____.

I am from those moments –

_____.

Inspired by George Ella Lyons’s “Where I’m From”
with text taken from *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara

BY _____ (Your name)