

LEARN ABOUT THE PEOPLE
AROUND YOU

LEARN ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS

I AM FROM...

A community writing project sponsored by
Better Together and the
Community Arts Center of East Texas

Beginning September 15, 2020

Please contact Steve Cooper, Project Director
at scooper@sfasu.edu or (936) 468-2845 for
more information and instructions.



I AM FROM POEM EXAMPLES:

Where I'm From
by George Ella Lyon
Original poem

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 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
by Ella Herrera – age 6
Nacogdoches County Resident

I am from my room,
From Disneyworld and paint.
I am from the playroom with the good
couch.

It has two beanbags and a loft, the
hardness of the wooden loft.

I am from the ducks in our backyard;
they come and eat out of my
hands.

I'm from opening presents on
Christmas and birthdays and beautiful
brown skin.

From Tia Cari and Nieves

I'm from the hard workers who have
tempers,

From "Ella feed the cat" and "go to bed"
I am from praying in order to tell God
stuff.

I'm from Nacogdoches, Texas and
strong work ethic.

From hog meat and tamales.

I'm from my crazy Aunt Cari who grew
up and wasn't so crazy
anymore.

I am from all this and so much more.

Better Together

Center for Rural Social Work Research and Development
School of Social Work
Stephen F. Austin State University

“I am from” Poem Submission Form

Learn about the people around you
Learn about your neighbors
Learn about your community

Directions

1. Type your answers for the poem below (pp. 1,2).
2. Complete and sign the Contact Information and Consent Form (p. 3).
3. Submit completed and signed forms (submission and contact information/consent), and a photograph of yourself in your community (optional), by either:
 - Scanning all of the information and emailing it to scooper@sfasu.edu, or
 - Mailing all of the information to:
c/o Steve Cooper, Project Director
School of Social Work
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 6104
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

To request a paper copy of poem submission form, please email scooper@sfasu.edu or call (936) 468-2228 or (936) 468-2845.

We invite you to tell us "where you're from" by answering the questions below. We will use your answers to create your "I am from" poem.

1. What is one specific, ordinary object from the home where you grew up that could help others understand "where you're from"? _____

2. Name 2 products in the household "where you're from."
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. How would you describe the house/apartment/dwelling "where you're from"? _____

4. Give 2 adjectives and a sensory detail (what could you see, hear, taste, touch, smell?) that describe the house/apartment/dwelling “where you’re from.”
 - a. Adjective 1 - _____
 - b. Adjective 2 - _____
 - c. Sensory detail - _____

5. What is the name of 1 plant, 1 flower, or 1 natural item "where you're from"? (only one) _____
6. Name 1 of your family traditions and 1 family trait.
a. Family tradition - _____
b. Family trait - _____
7. What are the names of 2 family/community members "where you're from"?
a. _____
b. _____
8. What are 2 family tendencies "where you're from"?
a. _____
b. _____
9. What are 2 things you were told on a regular basis "where you're from"?
a. _____
b. _____
10. What are 2 things (a saying, a verse of scripture, a line from a song) that represent your religious background or the values you were raised with?
a. _____

b. _____

11. What is your place of birth and family ancestry/nationality?
a. Place of birth - _____
b. Family ancestry/nationality - _____
12. Name 2 food items that represent your family.
a. _____
b. _____
13. In just a few words, what is a specific family story about a specific person and detail?
a. Story - _____
b. Detail about the story or family member - _____

14. What is another detail of another family member? _____

15. What is the location of your family pictures, mementos, archives (in the attic, in a box in the closet, etc.)? _____

16. Write one line explaining the importance of these family items.

Contact Information and Consent Form on next page

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“I am from” Contact Information and Consent Form

Contact Information – Please provide your contact information below:

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If you are under 18 years of age, please check this box and provide contact information for your parent or legal guardian below.

Name of parent or legal guardian _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Permission to Use Poem and Picture

I, _____, as author of the responses attached to this submission form, grant Better Together and the School of Social Work at Stephen F. Austin State University, the right to use my responses to construct my “I am from” poem, to display it on Better Together’s website, and to use the poem and my photograph for the purpose of promoting Better Together to the general public. The poem and picture may also appear in print version. I further understand and agree that there will be no remuneration or compensation provided for any use of my information or likeness, and I hereby waive any rights to royalties or other compensation arising from any use by Better Together or the University.

I RELEASE AND AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY, ITS EMPLOYEES, DESIGNEES, AGENTS, AND ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES FOR OR THROUGH WHOM THE UNIVERSITY IS ACTING, FROM ANY LIABILITY IN CONNECTION OF TAKING, STORING OR USING ANY REPRODUCTION OF MY INFORMATION OR LIKENESS REGARDLESS OF MEDIUM.

By signing below, I acknowledge that the submitted responses are my own and that I have full authority to grant the permissions outlined herein. I acknowledge that I, along with Better Together and the Community Arts Center of East Texas, will be credited as the author of the poem.

Signature of Author

Date

Printed Name of Author

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian
(if under 18 years of age)

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian