

original language.



My name is

(your full name)

and I am _____ (a
role that's meaningful to you)

I am from _____

(the city / town of your birth),

from _____

(another city that shaped you)

and _____

(your current neighborhood)

I'm from _____

(your favorite place in nature)

and

_____ (a favorite meal),

from

(meaningful body of water)

and

_____ (a
plant or flower you like).

I'm from

_____ (where
you were baptized)

and _____

(where your faith wobbled),

from _____

(name of a spiritual mentor)

and

(name of another mentor).

I'm from

(a phrase you often heard growing up).

and _____ (a
favorite Bible story or image)
and I am

(a line from a hymn)

I'm from _____
(object on your shopping list).
and _____
(an object on your nightstand).

I am from all these moments—and more,
seed-fall in the furrow of God's garden.

Handout by Courage & Renewal facilitator Erin S. Lane.
For more information visit couragerenewal.org or
erinslane.com.

Adapted by Elizabeth Henry-McKeever

Where I'm From

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.

—George Ella Lyon

*George Ella Lyon grew up in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and attended Centre College where she studied music and English. Though she writes in many forms, she is first of all a poet, which means her job is to see and sing the connections between things. *Gendered pronouns for God reflect the author's*