

“I am from...” Poems

1. Make a list of the first things that come to mind for each of the following :

- Any vivid images that recall your family and/or community:
 - smells
 - textures
 - colors
 - sounds
- Names of food and dishes that recall family gatherings
- Special family traditions for holidays, birthdays
- Familiar family sayings, proverbs, words, or special names for things
- Names of relatives, special friends,
- Sights and sounds from your neighborhood
 - special places you play
 - your house: special places in it and activities that took place there
- Games, hobbies, and family activities
- Special clothes

2. Choose several of your favorite images. Put the stem “I am from” in front of each line. Be spontaneous. Rearrange into 3-6 stanzas. Read out loud. Revise until it sings.

I am from rope swings, tree forts and ice rinks in the back yard.

I am from junk-drawers in the kitchen, apples on the porch, and windows on the stairway where we sat in our pajamas to watch the adults dance.

I am from paper-thin potatoes on the grill, parsnips around the roast, and dinners of leftovers called “point.”

I am from *press your seams, butter your edges, and we all work until the work is done.*

I am from short and tall Grammas, hand-me-down cousins, and holiday with the Haags.

I am from stay-up-late birthdays with home-made party hats, and shiny new dimes--wrapped in wax paper--hidden in my favorite caramel spice cake.