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| Where I’m From |

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| by George Ella Lyon | by Lehua Parker |
| I am from clothespins, | I am from long bus rides, |
| From Clorox and carbon-tetracholoride. | From library cards and rainbow shave ice. |
| I am from the dirt under the back porch. | I am from the Hardy Boys books under the covers with a flashlight. |
| (Black, glistening,) | (Stuffy, ghostly,) |
| it tasted like beets.) | they tasted like burnt socks.) |
| I am from the forsythia bush | I am from the coconut tree |
| the Dutch elm | the gardenia bush |
| whose long-gone limbs I remember | whose scent filled my bedroom |
| as if they were my own. | and colored my dreams. |
|  |  |
| I’m from fudge and eyeglasses, | I’m from Friday night volleyball and Wot, boddah you?, |
|  | from Imogene and Alafair. |  | from Katherine with a K and Stephen Hanalei. |
| I’m from the know-it-alls and the pass-it-ons, | I’m from the we-kokua-‘ohana and the we-get-‘em-mahalo, |
|  | from Perk up! and Pipe down! |  | from Watch your sister! and Pa‘a ka waha! |
| I’m from He restoreth my soul | I’m from Sundays at Waimanalo  |
|  | with a cottonball lamb |  | with boogieboard hymns |
|  | and ten verses I can say myself. |  | and POG communion. |
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| I’m from Artemus and Billie’s Branch, | I’m from wagon-wheel pioneers and wayfinding wa’a, |
| fried corn, and strong coffee. | pickled Maui onions, and canned fruit cocktail. |
| From the finger my grandfather lost | From the steel mill Grandma Betty sweated in |
|  | to the auger, |  | during World War II, |
| the eye my father shut to keep his sight. | the ‘auwe, ‘auwe Tutu wailed as bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor. |
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| Under my bed was a dress box | In the top of my mother’s closet |
| spilling old pictures, | Polaroid snapshots and 8mm films,  |
| a sift of lost faces | Hawai‘i and Utah |
| to drift beneath my dreams. | an ocean apart. |
| I am from those moments— | I am from those fading images—  |
| snapped before I budded— | Fly-spotted and creased— |
| leaf-fall from the family tree. | my ‘ohana-nui and me. |

To find out more about

George Ella Lyon and her poem: <http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html>

I Am From Project: <https://iamfromproject.com/>

National Writing Project: <https://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/4673>

Where I’m From Poems by Students at Project Hope: <http://nelrc.org/managingstress/pdfs/lessons/Where%20I%27m%20from%20poems%20-%20Project%20Hope.pdf>

I Am From Project Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/iamfromproject/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Where I’m From |

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| #101) | I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, |
|  |  (specific ordinary item) |
| 02) | From \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  |  (product name) (product name) |
| 03) | I am from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  |  (home description) |
| 04) | (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,) |
|  |  (adjective) (adjective)  |
| 05) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) |
|  |  (sensory detail) |
| 06) | I am from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  (plant, flower, natural item) |
| 07) | the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  (another plant, flower, natural item) |
| 08) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  (description of above item) |
| 09) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  |  (continued description of above item) |
|  |  |
| #210) | I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, |
|  |  (family tradition) (family trait) |
| 11) |   | from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  |  (name of family member) (another name of family member) |
| 12) | I’m from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, |
|  |  (family tradition) (family trait) |
|  |  | from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! |
|  |  (something you were told as a child) (something else you were told as a child) |

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| 13) | I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |
|  |  (representation of religion or lack of) |
| 14) |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  (descriptive detail) |
| 15) |  | and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  |  (another descriptive detail) |
|  |  |
| #316) | I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, |
|  |  (place of birth) (family ancestry) |
| 17) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  | (a food item that represents your family) (another food item that represents your family) |
| 18) | From the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  (specific family story about a specific person and detail) |
| 19) |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, |
|  |  (specific detail from the story) |
| 20) | the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  |  (detail of another specific family member and story) |
|  |  |
| #421) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | (location of family pictures, mementos, archives) |
| 22) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,  |
|  | (line detailing the objects/contents) |
| 23) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | (line explaining the connection between you and the objects) |
| 24) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  | (line summarizing how the contents affect you) |
| 25) | I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—  |
|  |  (line explaining the connection between you and the objects) |
| 26) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_— |
|  | (imagery summarizing the connections) |
| 27) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  | (final detail of imagery) |

Name: George Ella Lyon

Date: Summer 1993

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| #101) | I am from clothespins, |
|  |  (specific ordinary item) |
| 02) | From Clorox and carbon-tetracholoride. |
|  |  (product name) (product name) |
| 03) | I am from the dirt under the back porch. |
|  |  (home description) |
| 04) | (Black, glistening,) |
|  |  (adjective), (adjective)  |
| 05) | it tasted like beets.) |
|  |  (sensory detail) |
| 06) | I am from the forsythia bush |
|  |  (plant, flower, natural item) |
| 07) | the Dutch elm |
|  |  (another plant, flower, natural item) |
| 08) | whose long-gone limbs I remember |
|  |  (description of above item) |
| 09) | as if they were my own. |
|  |  (continued description of above item) |
|  |  |
| #210) | I’m from fudge and eyeglasses, |
|  |  (family tradition) (family trait) |
| 11) |   | from Imogene and Alafair. |
|  |  (name of family member)(another name of family member) |
| 12) | I’m from the know-it-alls and the pass-it-ons, |
|  |  (family tradition) (family trait) |
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|  |  (something you were told as a child)(something else you were told as a child) |

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| 13) | I’m from He restoreth my soul  |
|  |  (representation of religion or lack of) |
| 14) |  | with a cottonball lamb |
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| #316) | I’m from Artemus and Billie’s Branch, |
|  |  (place of birth) (family ancestry) |
| 17) | fried corn, and strong coffee. |
|  | (a food item that represents your family) (another food item that represents your family) |
| 18) | From the finger my grandfather lost |
|  |  (specific family story about a specific person and detail) |
| 19) |  | to the auger, |
|  |  (specific detail from the story) |
| 20) | the eye my father shut to keep his sight. |
|  |  (detail of another specific family member and story) |
|  |  |
| #421) | Under my bed was a dress box |
|  | (location of family pictures, mementos, archives) |
| 22) | spilling old pictures,  |
|  | (line detailing the objects/contents) |
| 23) | a sift of lost faces |
|  | (line explaining the connection between you and the objects) |
| 24) | to drift beneath my dreams. |
|  | (line summarizing how the contents affect you) |
| 25) | I am from those moments—  |
|  |  (line explaining the connection between you and the objects) |
| 26) | snapped before I budded— |
|  | (imagery summarizing the connections) |
| 27) | leaf-fall from the family tree. |
|  | (final detail of imagery) |

Name: Lehua Parker

Date: 2/17/2019

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| Where I’m From |

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| #101) | I am from long bus rides, |
|  |  (specific ordinary item) |
| 02) | From library cards and rainbow shave ice. |
|  |  (product name) (product name) |
| 03) | I am from the Hardy Boys books under the covers with a flashlight. |
|  |  (home description) |
| 04) | (Stuffy, ghostly,) |
|  |  (adjective), (adjective)  |
| 05) | they tasted like burnt socks.) |
|  |  (sensory detail) |
| 06) | I am from the coconut tree |
|  |  (plant, flower, natural item) |
| 07) | the gardenia bush |
|  |  (another plant, flower, natural item) |
| 08) | whose scent filled my bedroom |
|  |  (description of above item) |
| 09) | and colored my dreams. |
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| #210) | I’m from Friday night volleyball and Wot, boddah you?, |
|  |  (family tradition) (family trait) |
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| #316) | I’m from wagon-wheel pioneers and wayfinding wa’a, |
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| 17) | pickled Maui onions, and canned fruit cocktail. |
|  | (a food item that represents your family) (another food item that represents your family) |
| 18) | From the steel mill Grandma Betty sweated in |
|  |  (specific family story about a specific person and detail) |
| 19) |  | during World War II, |
|  |  (specific detail from the story) |
| 20) | the ‘auwe, ‘auwe Tutu wailed as bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor. |
|  |  (detail of another specific family member and story) |
|  |  |
| #421) | In the top of my mother’s closet |
|  | (location of family pictures, mementos, archives) |
| 22) | Polaroid snapshots and 8mm films,  |
|  | (line detailing the objects/contents) |
| 23) | Hawaii and Utah |
|  | (line explaining the connection between you and the objects) |
| 24) | an ocean apart. |
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| 25) | I am from those fading images—  |
|  |  (line explaining the connection between you and the objects) |
| 26) | Fly-spotted and creased— |
|  | (imagery summarizing the connections) |
| 27) | my ‘ohana-nui and me. |
|  | (final detail of imagery) |