**“Where I’m From” Instructions (page 1)**

**“If you don’t know where you’re from, you’ll have a hard time saying where you’re going.”**

**--Wendell Berry**

**This assignment will ask you to explore your background, reflect upon your family’s history and the geographical places you have both visited and lived. You will also call on the memories that are the most vivid in your mind. The fruits of your explorations will take shape in the form of a poem. This project is inspired by a poem titled, “Where I’m From,” written by George Ella Lyon. Both a text and audio version of his poem is included in a folder that is included in Schoology.**

**This packet that you will need to download and print contains two pages of directions, a family portrait sheet, two pages of prewriting questions and a poem template. After you review the contents of the packet, you can begin. Below I have outlined what is required and due the first day of school, August 10. You will staple together the following:**

* **Page 1: First, create a title page for your work. The design is up to you, as is the artwork. The only requirement is that is NOT on lined paper, but blank 8 ½ by 11 paper. This is the first impression I’ll have of your work; you want it to be your best.**
* **Page 2: Next is your “Family Portrait” page (from packet). Be sure to draw an important memory and depict it in picture form as best you can, followed by a descriptive paragraph. Again, show respect for your memory by doing your best work.**
* **Pages 3 & 4: Then you will include your two pages of prewriting questions (from packet). Full and thoughtful responses, in complete sentences, are your goals here.**
* **Pages 5 & 6: Next is your poem template (from packet); simply finish each line with the details that are specific to you.**
* **Page 7: On a sheet of binder paper, you must next include a handwritten rough draft that contains the same information you provided on the template (except for the parts in parentheses). Once you finish this step, take a moment to review your work. With a colored pen or pencil, note any changes you think you need to make. You may want to read this rough draft out loud as well to make sure it has a pleasing flow.**
* **Page 8: The final page of your packet is your typed final version. Be sure it is free of errors and that it is something you are proud to share with me.**

**Take Note:**

* **You will NOT be required or asked to share your poem with the class.**
* **Be sure to listen to the audio clips and read the poem examples for inspiration!**

**Instructions: The Process (page 2)**

**Step 1 Complete the Family Portrait and Prewrite Questions:** Think about what makes you YOU. Recreate a special memory in illustration form, plus write a rich description of the memory. Answer the prewrite questions carefully; if you need to, consult other family members.

**Step 2 Poem Template:** Simply fill in the blanks of the template.

**Step 3 Rough Draft:** Handwrite a rough draft on binder paper; you may use pencil or pen. Copy the lines from the template but leave out the words in parentheses. Make sure you give it a title. “I Am From…” or “Where I’m From” is fine.

**Step 4 Edit and Revise:** With a different color of writing utensil, go back through your rough draft and note any changes to be made. Are there places you should be more specific or descriptive? Could a poetic device (a simile, metaphor or alliteration, for example) help make your poem pop? Can your reader visualize what you are describing? Use your five senses and poetic devices to help create a sense of being there. Again, your rough draft should be marked up with a different color pen or pencil to show me that you’ve gone back and looked with fresh eyes at your work. Read it aloud to someone in your household and ask for their feedback.

**Step 5 Final Draft:** Now that you’re ready, type your final draft. Use an easy-to-read font in 12 point size. Be sure to include your poem title (in quotation marks) at the top of your paper.

**Step 6 Title Page:** Create a good-looking title page on blank 8 ½ by 11 paper. The style and design aesthetic is up to you; however you must include your first and last name and period you have my class on its front, plus the title of your poem in quotation marks.

**Family Portrait**

**Please share a special family memory that represents your unique cultural heritage.**

**Step 1: Draw your memory. Stick figures are acceptable. Color is not required, but detail and care are.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Step 2: Describe your memory/picture in the space below.**

**Prewriting Questions**

**Answer the following in detail and complete sentences. They will prepare you for writing your poem.**

1. Describe where you live. What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it feel like to be there? \*\*This could be your actual house, or another place that represents where you’re from.

2. What objects or belongings can be found in your home or room? List and describe at least three.

3. What are the names of the people in your family, however you define the word? \*\*They can be alive or deceased, blood relatives or not.

4. Describe two or three family traditions.

5. What phrases, words or sayings are important to you or to members of your family?

6. What are some beliefs that represent where you are from? \*\*This does not necessarily refer to religion—just what is important to you.

7. What foods are important to you and your family?

8. List two or three important childhood memories.

9. Describe the weather where you are from (don’t forget seasons).

10. What do people do for work/entertainment/sports in the place(s) you’re from?

11. What are some of your favorite things to do?

**Poem Template**

**Incorporate your answers to the prewriting questions into your “Where I’m From” poem, but you do not have to use all the words or categories. However, you can add new words or phrases that describe where you are from when you write your final version. Use punctuation where you feel it belongs, according to your poem’s style. Don’t worry if you need to change a bit here and there—make it yours.**

First Stanza:

**I am from** (specific ordinary item)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**from** (product name)\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**and** (another product name)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am from the** (home description)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Adjective that describes the above home description\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**It** (tasted, sounded, looked, felt—chooseone)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am from the** (plant, flower or naturalitem)\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,**

**the** (plant, flower or natural item)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Description of natural item)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I’m from the** (family tradition)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**and** (family trait)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from**

(name of family member)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and** (name of familymember)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**and** (another name)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I’m from the** (description of familytendency)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and**

(another family tendency)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Second Stanza:

**From** (something you were told as achild)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and**

(another thing you were told as a child)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I’m from** (representation of religious/spiritual beliefs or lack of)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,**

(further description of beliefs or lack of)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**I’m from** (place of birth/family ancestry)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Two food items that represent your ancestry)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**From the** (specific family story with a detail about a specific person)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**the** (another detail of another family member)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am**

**from** (general statement with DETAILS about who or where you are from)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**