“Where I’m from” - template for exercise in Class #1
(from poem by George Ella Lyon)

I am from ________(specific ordinary item), from ________(product name) and ________.

I am from the _________ (home description... adjective, adjective, sensory detail).

I am from the _________ (plant, flower, natural item), the _________ (plant, flower, natural detail).

I am from _________ (family tradition) and _________ (family trait), from _________ (name of family member) and _________ (another family name) and _________ (family name).

I am from the _________ (description of family tendency) and _________ (another one).

From _________ (something you were told as a child) and _________ (another).

I am from (representation of religion, or lack of it). Further description.

I’m from _________ (place of birth and family ancestry), _________ (two food items representing your family).

From the _________ (specific family story about a specific person and detail), the _________ (another detail, and the _________ (another detail about another family member).

I am from _________ (location of family pictures, mementos, archives and several more lines indicating their worth).

Where I’m From (by George Ella Lyon)

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.

Audio of poet reading: http://www.georgeellalyon.com/audio/where.mp3