

Writing prompts;

"I am from;"

List 10 games you remember from childhood, list 10 foods you liked as a kid, list 5 flowers that grew in your yard or on your windowsill, list 5 smells you remember. List the names of 5 childhood friends and the names of your older relatives. List TV shows you used to watch. Now, use these memoires to create a poem. Begin with; "I am from ____"

Here is a sample I wrote;

Family tree

I am from bobby pins,
from Ipana toothpaste and Howdy Doody
I am from basements lined with
canned peaches in glass jars.
From hollyhocks against the garage
and Joe Pye weed in the ditches.
I am from *Lassie* and *Ed Sullivan*
on Sunday night with popcorn.
I am from Myrtle, Elva and Gertrude
from Harold, Perry and Emerson.
I am from *waste-not / want-not*
from *cleanliness-is-next-to-godliness*.
I am from saddle shoes and the Bijou Theater
with Coca-Cola in green glass bottles.
I am from *Simmer down!*
and "*Eat three bites of everything.*"
I once spent an entire Sunday afternoon
At the kitchen table because I refused
to eat the butternut squash.
I am from *Now I lay me down to sleep*
and the Congregational Church.
I'm from Newaygo and Urbandale,
meatloaf, Waldorf salad
and Henri's mint chocolate chip ice cream
hand dipped into a round white cardboard box.
I am from *See the USA in your Chevrolet*

and from the \$64,000 question.

Faded photos from Brownie cameras
collected in shoe boxes
labeled in a shaky hand by Grandma.

I am from these.

An acorn fallen not far
from the family tree.

Penny Hackett-Evans