

# Two

## Description Through Detail

Good writers use specific, vivid details to add richness to their work. Read "Where I'm From" by George Ella Lyon, poet, novelist, and children's book writer. Note her use of details to bring her childhood to life.

*Response notes*

### Where I'm From

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.

Reread the poem, looking this time for the kinds of things that the poet says she is "from." Use the margin to make notes. Decide on four categories that things seem to fit into. Name the categories, then list all the things that fit into each category in the chart on the next page.

Ms. Kim

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