

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Where I'm From Poetry Assignment

**Directions:** Your mission is both difficult and easy. You must write a poem that talks about where you are from. Are you from Kalamazoo? What has made YOU different growing up? What has happened in your life to form who YOU are as a person? Please read MY poem about where I am from and then comment. Talking about our writing is important! After that, get ready to write your own piece!

"Where I am From"

I am from the tenement buildings of Queens,  
And the cornfields of Kalamazoo.  
I am from dirt and mud pies in sandboxes,  
And my mother's old pearls.  
I am from pride and happiness to be using one's hands,  
Calloused over from years of hard labor.

I am from the worn pages of a good book,  
From an old library where the librarian always smiles.  
Fanatical dreams of horses and of adventure like when we  
Walked on frozen waves  
In winter coats and wool mittens.  
I am from the winter South Haven pier.

I am from a faded picture of my grandmother Edith,  
Who shaped my eyes into their vision.  
Looking identical to this woman I barely remember.  
I am from her small donkey's velvet muzzle that eats my mitten.  
I am from the tears that followed.

I am from small boxes from a church craft bazaar,  
Keeping odds and ends when I was little,  
Because I was taught it wasn't right to waste  
Anything. Because we should be fortunate to have what we have  
And to earn every penny of every dime and of every quarter.

I am from pen and paper,  
Blank notebooks with fresh lines that are crisp and never-ending,  
And remain unwritten.  
Only to be reached for in times of need.

I am from my nieces and family,  
Separated but still always equal.  
I am from giving of myself first,  
And accepting that the only faith lost,  
Is the faith I lose in forgetting where I'm from.

**Poem  
Explanation:**

**My dad was born  
in Kalamazoo.**

**My mom was  
born in the NYC.**

**My third grade  
librarian got me  
hooked on  
reading. Black  
Beauty books to  
be exact.**

**My grandmother  
Edith passed  
away when I was  
4. My dad says I  
look just like her.**

**Her donkey ate  
my mitten off my  
hand when I was  
young.**

**I always start  
new notebooks  
and never finish  
them. Like  
chapstick.**

**My parents  
divorced when I  
was in college.**