**EFP 10**

**“I Am From” poem**

An “I Am From” poem reminds us that knowing our roots is essential for knowing our future possibilities. Below are the following ideas you may choose to include in your poem. (You can add extras or leave out extras of any topic.

**Things to include:**

* Powerful images from your memory
* Foods
* Family members
* Brand names that you see on a daily basis
* Locations and elements of the landscape
* Passions (music, sports, games, etc.)
* Clothing
* Pets or animals
* Favorite or influential books
* Very positive and very negative memories (both create us)
* Lessons taught to you
* Sayings you grew up with
* Routines of your life and family
* Family experiences what makes you afraid?
* What brings you joy?
* Family traditions or family traits
* Place of birth, family ancestry
* Other

Use descriptive language and sensory detail (description that appeals to the five senses)

**Evaluation:**

1. Variety of descriptions and elements(not just 20 examples of foods)
2. Variety in the way you write your poem (use “I am from” as the main starter but vary your sentence structure)
3. Language: use imagery and the senses to help the reader experience what you have experienced
4. Original ending that includes literary devices such as metaphor, allusion or strong imagery.

**Suggested steps:**

1. Brainstorm all the elements of yourself and your surroundings and your past that you can think of. Just write them down in whatever order or arrangement you want
2. Pick a few key ones and start expanding them a bit further (add some adjectives or extra details about them)
3. Start to arrange your ideas, using the “I am from” phrase to start every few lines of poetry
4. Think of a metaphor that represents a big part of you or that represents the process of collecting your memories and add that at the end of your poem

**“I Am From” Template**

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

I am from \_\_\_ (home description…adjective, adjective, sensory detail).

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

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).

Remember that you don’t have to use these details or have them in this order. Add more and remove some. This is just a possible framework to help you get started if you are stuck. If you want full marks for “variety” you should add more lines then are given here.