**I Am From Poem**

**-Create a poem mirroring the SAMPLE POEM on the right side of this page---------->**

-Use a hook phrase to link the phrases of the poem together such as “I am from”.

-Brainstorm the following to incorporate into your poem (make lists as needed):

*•Items found around your home such as stacks of newspapers, blocks, dishes, toys, games, skis*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Items found in your yard or near your home such as dog bones, hoses coiled like green snakes, bicycles, rakes, trash*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Items found in your neighborhood such as the local grocery store, the  “home base” plum tree, the neighbor’s classic car, the park nearby*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Names of relatives, especially ones linking you to your past: Uncle Bob, Grandma Milly, Great-Grandpa George*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Sayings from your family like, “If Iv’e told you once, I’ve told you a thousand times” or “When I was a child I....”*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Names of food and dishes that recall family gatherings like tamales, buttermilk brownies, red velvet cake, potato salad, green bean casserole*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Names of places you keep your early childhood memories such as diaries, journals, boxes, drawers, treasure chests, under your bed*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*•Goals, dreams or things you want to do someday such as a school you want to attend, a job you would like to do, places to travel, etc.*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

-Try to make your phrases “sound like home” using the language of your home, your family, your neighborhood.

-Try to end your poem with a line or two that ties the present

with your past

***SAMPLE POEM***

***I Am From Swingsets and***

***Jungle Gyms***

*by Debby Gordon*

*I am from jars for change collections,*

*cards from Grandma,*

*and chocolate milk.*

*I am from swingsets and jungle gyms*

*rusted metal mounted in the dirt*

*used by many kids*

*well broken in.*

*I am from the cherry tree,*

*and the pudgy faces climbing the branches*

*for a piece of juicy red fruit.*

*I am from tattle-tales,*

*keep-it-froms,*

*and “hush up and listen to me”.*

*I am from Rice Crispy Treats,*

*and pretty rings,*

*from Melvin and Earline.*

*I’m from Will and Sharon’s long branch,*

*chunky peanut-butter and jelly,*

*from the house we lost to the fire,*

*and surgeries we all have had.*

*I am from the old scrapbooks,*

*where pictures,*

*remind me of days that live only in the minds*

*of those of us who were there.*

*I am from people who paved a way for me,*

*I am from the best that could be,*

*and I am the best I could be.*

Points\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/40

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_

Using the brainstorming list you created on the back of this page, write an “I AM FROM” poem below. Use the sample poem provided as a guide. Your poem should have 8 stanzas with at least 3 ideas in each stanza to receive full credit. Feel free to add illustrations if you would like to—not required.

**I AM FROM…**