

**Clisty Hill**  
**Wyoming County Gifted Teacher**

**Writing an “Where I’m From” Poem**  
**Based on the Poem by George Ella Lyon**

**Materials you will need: access to the internet, paper, pencils, patience and a good sense of humor.**

First, use George Ella Lyons website to learn about the author [www.georgeellalyon.com](http://www.georgeellalyon.com). Ms. Lyon is the 2015-2016 poet laureate from Kentucky, and her site is filled with great information. I used this site for my introduction to the author and also to learn about writing poetry in general. One of the links on the site is her reading the poem aloud. She sounds like she is from Kentucky and this made my rural gifted students comfortable from the start. Ms. Lyon has a sample template of her poem on her site, but I decided to make my own and it is attached.

Second, after examining [www.georgeellalyon.com](http://www.georgeellalyon.com) and analyzing her poem we looked up some vocabulary words such as: Clorox, carbon-tetrachloride, beets, forsythia, Dutch elm, fried corn and I also added the disease known as pica (eating dirt), collard greens (she says she loves them) and Billie’s Branch in KY.

Third, I introduced my students to my poem entitled “I Am From” which is attached. We discussed my poem and they questioned me incessantly, like all good gifted students should.

Finally, my students are now in the process of writing their own poem. It is going really well. When they are finished with the writing process, I am going to put their picture and their poem on some decorative paper and laminate it for them to give to their parents as a Christmas present.