



# Where I'm From Poems

By the Students at Project Hope, Roxbury, MA  
As part of the Managing Stress to Improve Learning project  
World Education, Boston, MA

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## Where I'm From

Dorease W.

I am from Soul Train, from Sulfur 8 and Afro Sheen cosmetics  
I am from bacon sizzling, hair straightening, gospel playing  
I am from the Aloe Vera and the olive oil  
I am from family walks after dinner and singing around the piano, from Jaqueline and Kenneth and The Walkers  
I am from the West Indian culture, love & respect and love your self first before demanding it from others

From "A hard head makes a soft behind", and "Your eyes may shine, your teeth may grit, but none of this treat you gonna get"  
I am from a Christian home  
I am from Jamaica by way of New Jersey and plantains & curry goat

From my grandma Doris waking me up for Saturday chores, the smell of Pine Sol and Ajax Cleaner  
I am from a line of strong Queens



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## Where I'm From

Gracie C.

I am from cross colors  
From Portuguese cooking oil and Pledge

I am from the tide smell  
I am from the Aloe Vera and the oceans

I am from holiday parties and birth marks, from Braz and Joana and Costa  
I am from the constant cleaning and cooking

From "Never tell lies or steal"  
I am from the Catholic faith

I'm from Angola and Cabo Verde and cachupa & mangos  
From the fighting with 4 brothers, the protection of 4 brothers and the love of 4 brothers

I am from Cambridge



## Where I'm From

Guerda F

I am from Larousse dictionary and books on the shelves  
From palm tree, Jasmine flower, mangos, spinach  
and Yardley soap, rice and beans

I am from the beautiful two rooms with one bunk  
bed and a queen bed in a room

I am from the stomach of a wonderful woman  
named Idanette, the product of an astute man  
named Emmanuel

From a smart family, Judith, Carline, Madeleine, Michelet, Lucia, Tenelia

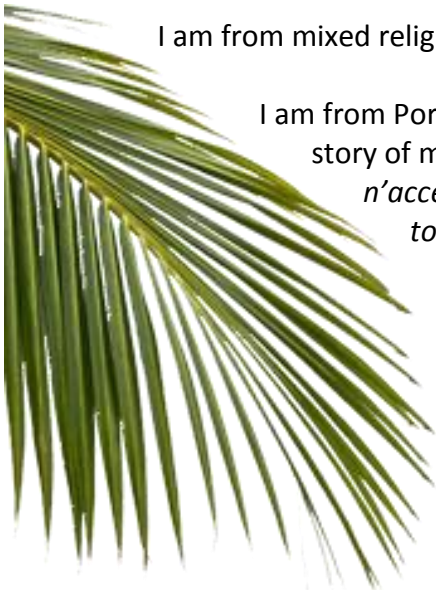
I am from my father's words, *Jamais passer le temps sans rien faire. Tu dois toujours  
tenir un livre en main pour lire*

From *tu ne dois pas mettre cette robe, c'est pas bon pour marcher dans la rue. Dis moi  
qui tu frequante, je te dirai qui tu es*

I am from mixed religions, Catholic and Baptist

I am from Port-au-Prince Haiti, Jeremie, Moron, Carrefour, Sanon, From the  
story of my father, *Lorsque tu grandiras, ne jamais mentir pour person,  
n'accepte pas tous les histoires que tes enfants auront a te dornner,  
toujours prêt a detecter des monsonges*

I am from Haiti, Port-au-Prince. Sometimes I go on vacation  
with my grandparents in a beautiful village named Jeremie and  
drink coconut water. Always read, always work on your past  
home work so you don't forget anything



## Where I'm From

Kelly G.

I am from the Sanbos and Pachinquetas  
From Sula and Gorditos

I am from the smell of Azistin and the noise of the  
rooster and the dogs

I am from the cornfield and the beautiful mountain

I am from the times that you have to wear new clothes on Christmas  
and long black hair, from Abuelita Tina and Abuelito Juan and Abuelito Rene

I am from the noisy family tendencies and popularity

From *El que mancha paredes y mesa da a conoser su bejesa* and *Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres*

I am from going to church every Sunday

I'm from Incas and Mayas in the beautiful Siguatepeque and tortillas de arina, and the  
fried fish

From the time when Tia Chelo got pregnant, the family tried to hide it and forced her to  
get married.

I am from a family that likes to fight but when you need them they will be there for you.

😊



## Where I'm From

Shirley

I am from the dust of the earth  
From a Variety and Generation

I am from the beautiful state of Arkansas

I am from the cotton and the tulip

I am from the Harper and Montague, from Jefferson  
and Johnson and Daniels

I am from the Harper family and Montague family  
From a little chubby kid and "You better learn God's prayer" & "You better learn your  
Easter speech"

I am from a Baptist background that affiliates with other members

I'm from Arkansas and Great Northern beans & neckbones

From the Delta land of Arkansas, Elvis fell in outdoors bathroom and Rosie Lee who had  
mental problems, left her lunch of popsicles in a tree and they melted. I witnessed this  
myself. And Grandmother May pulled a tape worm out of a neighbor's little girl next  
door when I was about 11 years old.

I am from a family of Arkansas with good memories and stories



## Where I'm From

Mariam Sesay

I am from Sheabutter  
From Jumbo and Omo

I am from the 4:30am morning prayer

I am from juice mango and the Ousula

I am from the Mandingo family and the Sesay  
family, from Mabanasia and Sekou and Ansu

I am from Mandingo great sense of belief and early morning cooking

From "Always work hard" and "Believe in your Creator"

I am from Muslim Love and Peace

I am from Liberia, West Africa and Nagie rice

From the story ginamoli

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## Where I'm From

Andrea Decosta



I am from dirt from the earth

From Cassava and Colgate toothpaste

I am from a loving Christian home

I am from rice and peas, and the cocoa

I am from going to church on Sundays and curry

chicken, from Ms. Gwen, and Mr. Papa, and Stewart

I am from getting to school and work on time and baking pudding and frying fish

From *Get your education now* and *Eat your dinner*

I am from a Christian home

I'm from Jamaica and Toto and chicken soup

From Bro Rancy, the Stewarts and the Decostas

I am from *We can do it Kingston*



## Where I'm From

By Loran M.

I am from Coco coffee, hibiscus tea, green pigeon peas, vevine, black stage, fever grass, lime bud teas

From fiber grass mattress & pillows and cokia brooms from coconut leaves

I am from the village of relatives, cousins

I am from the coconut trees, corn fields, plums, sugar cane, sorrel, pineapple, grapefruit and orange trees. From pumpkins, field watermelon, ginger field, yam and dasheen plants and fruit

I am from thanksgiving yearly and Curtains Old year's night, from black fruit cake and cassava pone and Agatha

I am from the curry goat, chicken, bodi, roti, fried plantains and cassava bread, sweet bread, tarts, homemade jams, bread, baked coconut drops

From Breeze – “Never let someone’s money burn your eyes.” and “Jacob climb the ladder” Jesus saw “Faith is the key to survival.”

I am from Pentecostal, Baptist, Catholic, Jewish

I'm from Trinidad & Tobago, Port-of-Spain and mangos & banana trees

From the Fabien George Edwards Jr., the Masa George Edwards and the slaves, Indians and Irish, Spanish grandmother. Irish – Great, Great Grandfather and Indian – Great, Great Grandmother

I am from leaders, doctors, judges, teachers from Tobago, Grenada, Venezuela.

