

I am from the trees that line the Ohio,  
tall and demanding the attention of the sun.  
I am from the rough, wild water of the creek  
that flows by my house.  
I am from the overpowering noise of motorcycles  
and the way they line the streets.  
I am from the sweet sound of a mandolin or guitar  
on a cool summer night.  
I am from the white Dodge truck parked in our yard,  
The one that rust has defeated.  
I am from steamy plates of enchiladas,  
From homemade biscuits and gravy.  
I am from long front porch talks,  
I am from long distance phone calls.  
From humid Kentucky and  
days along Onion creek.  
I am from my best friend's smile  
and my dad's thousands of CDs.  
I am from my mom's ice coffee,  
from old stories about the Korean war.  
I am from the mud pies made in the dry creek bed.  
I am from the wind rattling the spindly branches of the willow,  
from the fields of blue bonnets.  
I am from cross country trips with  
dogs and flat tires and endless music.  
I am from rock walls,  
from the chink in limestone.  
I am from the click of a camera,  
I am from dusty dictionaries and crippling winter days.  
I am from the flames,  
from the ashes and the dust.  
I am from tears and heartache,  
I am from black funeral suits,  
from healing songs and soothing words.  
I am from cityscapes and countrysides,  
I am from splintering wooden floors  
And from the oak trees and yucca plants,  
Cotton candy clouds and skies that bleed orange.

Ruby Young  
August 7, 2016  
St. Henry District High School  
Boone County

**Where I'm From  
Terry Focht**

**Burlington/ Boone County**

*I am from*

Haunting whistles of faraway trains  
Hovering like a mist  
Over the fields and meadows  
Down the tracks  
Through the valleys

*I am from*

The calls, the hollers, the yodels of the foothills  
Mighty Appalachian's  
Cumberland retreats  
Mountain homes in the clouds  
Embracing the Heavens

*I am from*

The blood of the Irish  
The Scottish  
The Natives of the land

*I am from*

Labor of the earth  
Music, and dance  
Folksongs and stories  
Customs of 'country'

*I am from*

The Mississippi, The Ohio  
The Tennessee, The Kentucky

*I am from*

Lakes and gorges  
Ancestral journeys through the Gap  
Highways and bridges  
Mountain passages  
Wooded plains

*I am from*

Howls of the coyote  
Melodies of the whip-poor-wills  
Songs of nature's creatures  
Calling from the forests

*I am from*

Kentucky Derby's  
Mighty Stallions  
*Secretariat*  
Hearts and souls of  
Four legged spirits

*I am from*

The land of the fiddlers  
Dulcimer and flute  
Guitar and banjo  
Mandolin and mouth harp

*I am from*

The music and dance of  
Scotland and Ireland  
Celebrated by mountain life  
Inspired by country churches

*I am from*

Harmonies of the people  
Deep from the soul  
Melancholy sounds  
Lingering in the air

*I am from*

The step and the rhythm of  
Flat-footed dancers  
Callers and yodelers  
Cloggers and shufflers

*I am from*

One-room schoolhouses  
Cabins of logs  
The twang and the slang  
The Cultured word  
Churches and Universities

*I am from*

Discovered paths of  
The Cherokee, Chickasaw's and Shawnee  
Delaware, and Mosopolea  
Wyandot's and Yuchi's

*I am from*

Perfume of wildflowers  
Black-eyed Susans and Bluebells  
Butterfly Pea and Chicory  
Purple-Flowering Raspberry

*I am from*

The earthly palate of wild berries  
Chicken on the grill  
Pork on the spit  
Grandma's pies

*I am from*

Frontier man  
Daniel Boone and Davey Crockett  
Kit Carson and Jim Bowie

*I am from*

The carver and whittler  
Weaver and stitcher  
Quilter and woodworker  
Cainer and rusher  
Potter and wordsmith

*I am*

*The birthplace of Lincoln  
Resting place of Secretariat  
Majesty of the mountains  
Beauty of the land  
Humble pride of the people*

*I am the blue grass*

*I am...*

***Kentucky***

***Where I'm From***  
Terry Focht

Burlington Kentucky/Boone County

*I am from Heaven's melting pot*  
*Birthered from many nations*

*I am from the destiny of man*  
Too many wars  
Victories and defeats  
Liberating life  
Wounded and deceased  
Honor and courage  
Undimmed by human tears

*I am from Native American's*  
Honored warriors  
Nature's keepers  
Revered Nations  
Spirit Quest

*I am from The Great Migration*  
Seekers of freedom  
Men of Steel  
Women of Faith

*I am from the giants of history*  
Hearts of the pilgrims  
Curiosity and grit of  
the explorers  
Courage of early settlers  
Stamina of the pioneers

*I am from Jamestown*  
Williamsburg and Plymouth  
The Nina, the Pinta, the Santa Maria  
The determination within mans soul

*I am from the sun and the stars*  
Mornings and midnights  
"Dawn's early light  
Twilight's last gleaming"

*I am from* boundless skies  
Architecture of the land  
Purple mountains majesty  
Emerald green valleys  
Bounties of the fields  
Blessings in the air

*I am from* land of the free  
Home of the brave  
Sea to shining sea  
Sun worn skin  
Rosy red cheeks  
Deeply carved laugh lines

*I am from* the colors of our flag  
Manifest Destiny  
Emancipation Proclamation  
Pledge of Allegiance  
In God We Trust  
The Lords Prayer

*I am from*  
“ The tired, the poor,  
the huddled masses  
yearning to breathe free”

*I am the children*  
*I am the people*  
*I am the land*  
*I am...*  
**America**