

Where I'm From

by Cynthia Shepherd
Clay County, Ky

I am from following the creek to wherever it took us
and the 200 meter backstroke,
From entire days spent on swing sets
and sled rides down steep hills.

I am from picking flowers from the neighbor's yards
and home made camps in the woods,
From the Encyclopedia Britannica lined up in order
and photos of children on ponies.

I am from Saturday morning cartoons
and 10:30 mass on Sundays,
From deviled eggs and salami sandwiches
and red Kool Aid and Tang.

I am from my mother's charm bracelet
and the middle finger that my Grandpa lost to a cannonball,
From "Shape up or ship out"
and "I'm going to send your food to the starving kids in China".

I am from grandma's home made chili on Christmas Eve
and pickled herring on New Year's,
From anniversary parties in the church basement
and birthday cakes shaped like cartoon characters.

I am from these things,
swirling around me like leaves on the wind,
and these things are me.