

Where I'm From

by Pauline Cooper Muncie, Estill County

I'm from long hot days in the field
And cooling off in the lake.

I'm from running up hills
And down in the hollers.

I'm from slate rock banks
And sulfur water.

I'm from weeping willow limbs
And magic carpets of horseflies.

I'm from playing in the creek
And water skiing with barrel staves.

I'm from Church on Sunday
And fried chicken for supper.

I'm from the family farm
Where anything was possible
And dreams were big.

I am from

Watching storms rise over the valley

Family singing circles with Uncle Doug's guitar

Frequent parsonage moves

Cob Hill and Crooked Creek

I am from

Soup beans and cornbread

Chocolate cream pie

Mom's beef stew and biscuits

ALE 8 and a pack of nabs

I am from

Ambeer spitting mountain women

Music makers

"Grannies" who did not share my bloodline

Piano teachers too numerous to count

I am from

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want

I'll fly away, oh glory

If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.

Mary Reid, Irvine, Estill County

Where I'm From

I am from the stone hearth –
the old stove that I would sit in front of.

I am from the wilderness and homemade toys.
I am from handmade log cabins,
and long days of hammering wooden pegs and making noise.

I am from my mountain,
from 1 hour drives every school day.
I am from sprawling land
with horses and hay and cattle.
I am from big cities where trains and subways rattle.

I am from hiking in the woods,
And working with my hands.
I am from building makeshift skateboards,
and playing with my friends.

I am from home cooked meals,
from lounging in bed smelling coffee and breakfast.
I am from my artistic mother and skillful father.
I am from finding rare agates in the creek beds,
from discovering things on my own.

I am from my memory -
from all the moments I've captured –
from all the times I've shared -
from all these things,
and from so much more . . .

by Matthew Phillip Ruffner, Irvine, Estill County