

“It’s What I Am”

I am from an old patchwork quilt, each piece tells a story.

I am from embroidered pillowslips and crocheted doilies.

I am from an old water pump, a wringer washer and fresh sheets blowing and drying in the wind.

I am from making do with what we have – giving thanks for hand me down clothes, worn out shoes. Waste not, want not, and poor people have poor ways.

I am from a strong faith and belief in God, the little country church, off key singing and neighbors that love one another. I am from Grandparents setting a good example, a true inspiration of family love. I am from fishing in the river, walking in the woods, picnics under the apple tree.

I am from the four room school house with four seater outhouses. Laughter and games of Hopscotch, Tag "you're it", Jump rope, Marbles, Jacks, Andy Over, softball and playing Hide and Seek until dark.

I am from unlocked doors, a three channel black and white TV with antennas, static on the radio, eating the family meal around the kitchen table and neighbors visiting after supper on the front porch.

I am from hard work on the farm. The smell of fresh cut hay, housing tobacco, horses grazing in the meadow, cow pastures, wildflowers and butterflies. I am from the sounds of the Whippoorwill and the Hoot Owl, the rumble of a distant train, the lonesome boat horn on the river and wind blowing through the pines. I am from the early rise of the Roaster crowing.

I am from picking blackberries and baking cobbler, bitter strong coffee and sweet ice tea. Homemade biscuits with fried bologna gravy, fried green “maters”, and good old mashed “tatters”, country ham, redeye gravy, brown beans and cornbread. Country fried chicken – I want the crunches, I get the wishbone!

I am from the giant oak with the rope swing, honeysuckle, blue skies and sunshine. I am from Redbud, Dogwood and spring flowers. I am from summer rain on a tin roof, painted foliage and falling leaves, fresh fallen snow in winter and a cozy warm fire in the woodstove.

I am from poor eyesight, yet seeing the heart crystal clear. I am from happiness, heartache, fear, tears, laughter, joy but most of all Love.

I am from all these memories, like the patchwork quilt filled with many stories and love.

Judy Geagley, Tollesboro, Lewis County

I Am From

I am from spoons and forks
from light bulbs and fans
I am from a white house
on Old Trace Creek
I am from the brightly colored flowers in the flower beds
The apple tree in my yard that gave abundance of fruit

I'm from cookouts and camping
From Thurmans and Carpenters
I'm from getting up early and going to bed late
and from playing in grassy fields

I'm from don't let the bed bugs bite
and sweet dreams
I'm from going to my aunts on New Year's Day
I'm from the hills of Kentucky
Potato soup and corn bread
From an amazing camping family
J.D. and Erica and more
Finding beautiful clam shells
while camping on Cave Run Lake

Andrew Thurman
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I Am From

I am from toothbrushes
from spoons and doors
I am from the brick house
with a rough outside
I am from the onion weed
The pecan tree
whose red leaves shimmer in the moonlight

I'm from vacations and a fuzzy pillow
from Michelle and Quentin
I'm from cleaning up the garage and building with Dad
and from playing with my pets

I'm from stories and legends
and treating others as you want to be treated
I'm from Thanksgiving
I'm from Kentucky and France
Stuffing and fish
from fisherman
who caught a rock shaped like a horseshoe
A picture of our house on the wall

Bryson Eulett
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I Am From

I am from dark furniture and white walls
from family pictures and mystery shows
I am from the white, long,
and beautiful cinnamon smelling house
I am from the yellow daffodils
The silver maple whose long arms I used to climb in summer

I'm from Christmas loving and quick-tempered people
from mom and dad
I'm from barbeques and adventures
and from parties

I'm from not lying and scary stories
and never go away
I'm from big country Christmas trees
I'm from Morehead Hills and Cherokee Indians

BBQ, deer jerky, and pasta
from putting up with siblings
my awesome, dark-haired and tall Mom
My dad's smiling family photo above my bed

Clarafaye Clifford
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I Am From

I am from pins and needles
from white tee shirts and blue jeans
I am from the tan house on Old Trace Creek
I am from a huge cherry tree in our front yard
The apple trees full of fruit
whose long limbs were full of fruit

I am from cookouts and family dinners
from Josh and Ashley
I am from quick tempered cleaners

I am from “don’t touch the stove” and “wash the dishes”
and tougher than a pine knot
I am from talking
I am from St. Claire Hospital and Morehead, Kentucky
homemade chocolate and brownies
from tall tale storyteller Ray
awesome papaw Ray
Papaw Ronny’S rattlesnake rattlers
In the chest in dad’s boyhood bedroom

Colby White
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I am From

I am from the shelves
From the key box
I am from the concrete foundation
And beautiful red flowers
The maple tree
Whose roots cause me to trip as I run in the yard

I'm from Christmas and Halloween
From Etta and Jeff
I'm from wrestling and playing
and from fun
I'm from stories and bluegrass
and "This Little Light of Mine"

I'm from December
I'm from Morehead and Kentucky
Chicken and ham
From World War II fighters
Almost killed
My own scrapbook
Lying on the kitchen table upstairs

By: Dalton Zornes
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I am From

I am from bunk beds
From spoons and forks
I am from a little white house and barn wood doors
I am from bushes and trees whose pine needles I love

I'm from Thanksgiving and Easter
From sisters and a brother
I'm from cleaning and praying and from sing along

I'm from yes and no
And Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
I'm from feasts
I'm from Kentucky and Cherokee
Gravy and biscuits
From the "toothpaste" story
From a bee sting
Black and white pictures

By: Grace Cooley
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

Where I am From

I am from the loving vibes of my family
The ones that can make a dark day positive
The encouraging words I hear every single day
The reason that keeps me going day after day

I am from the smirks, the giggles
The ones you will remember forever
I am from the memories that are in the hearts of everyone
The ones you will remember for the rest of your years

I am from the loss of loved ones
The days spent in church learning that God lived, and still lives today and
forever

I am from the birth of a new generation
The ones that stand for a change

I am from the countless tears ones have shed for me
To the smiles of my parents
I am from the ones who say they love me
But they end up breaking my heart

The people that leave me with memories
The ones that will haunt you
I am from the long anxious time span of multiple surgeries
The people being there in the time I most needed them
My Family

By:
Haillie Blevins
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I Am From

I am from fishing poles
from minnow traps and guns
I am from the great outdoors
quiet, beautiful, it looks like heaven
I am from the waters of Scotts Branch
The old beech whose long gone limbs held the homes of animals

I'm from the tough and wise
from Kidwells and Killens
I'm from talkers and storytellers
and from adventures

I'm from have fun and be careful
Chug-a-Lug and Springsteen
I'm from drinking out of Bill Branch
I'm from Kentucky and England
deer and cornbread
from a fisherman
a good father
deer racks
papaw's field
my first deer kill on Quick's Run

**Jackson Kidwell
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County**

I am From

I am from walking down the stairs
From sweet fragrance and hairspray
I am from delicious watermelon
The large sycamore near my home
Whose distinctive leaves turn yellow in the fall
Making a beautiful touch of color

I'm from Christmas and grandparents
From David and Ashley Lucas

I'm from church and weekend trips
And from card games

I'm from stories of spiders crawling in your mouth and the tooth fairy isn't real
and Jesus loves me
I'm from vacation every year
I'm from Maysville and Irish and German
Cheesecake and pork chops
From my great grandma
Whipping my papaw
Pins that go on your shirt
Pins in a jewelry box
It has a snowman and it is brown

By: Jessica Lucas
Laurel Elementary
Lewis County

I am From

I am from the covers covering my bed
From pots and pans
I am from a home of 5 people
The sound of rattle weeds rattling
The poplar tree
Whose unique blooms filled up the yard
Like they were a carpet

I'm from family Christmas's and birthdays
From grandmas and grandpas
I'm from Long's Retreat

I'm from not staring at fire and not playing with fire
And nursery rhymes
I'm from being together on Thanksgiving
I'm from Morehead and Carolyn Eulett
Biscuits and gravy
And from my father and grandparents collecting eggs
When my dad was 7 years old
Pictures of my dad in 2nd grade
In the drawer in the family room

Kaitlyn Eulett

Laurel Elementary School

Lewis County

I am From

I am from dishes and glasses
From wood ashes
I am from the greyish white house and the rusted roof
I feel the rocks and water down by the creek
I am from Maple trees
In my backyard whose leaves have numerous colors in autumn

I'm from going to the movies and going out to eat
From my brother and sister
I'm from my sister running her mouth and my mom and dad being lazy
And my Mama Ann eating too much

I'm from don't jump on the bed and good night I love you
And tomorrow will be better than today
I'm from Southern Ohio Medical Center and my last name being Potter
BBQ ribs and homemade biscuits
From my great grandma dying
Of old age
When we got to her before she passed away
In the bedroom

By: Leah Potter
Laurel Elementary
Lewis County

I am From

I am from racecar beds
From eating utensils and jerky
I am from the small and happy home
A wood burning stove
I am from the Bluegrass State
The apple tree
Whose tough, low limbs had apples on them in the spring
Which we harvested in the fall

I'm from Christmas and Thanksgiving
From Mary and Scottie
I'm from playing tricks and many uncles
And from generosity
I'm from "don't lie" and "don't repeat bad language"
And "I'm so excited"

I'm from visiting my great grandma
And from Kentucky and America
Steak and mac-n-cheese
From cancer and a donated finger
Tennessee pictures in mom's room

Mason O'Neal
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I am From

I am from food and Lego building blocks
I am from the brown one story house
A wood burning stove
The old trees in my yard

I'm from a house near the forest
From Luke and mamaw
Steakhouse and hotel
And playing board games

I'm from frowning and DON'T smoke!
And just gold
I'm from Trace Creek and Grayson
Eggs and toast
Bambi
Dollars
Key to my heart
Food, water, my family

By: Nicholas Stillwell
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I am from

I am from wood and work
From milk and gravy
I am from Tar Fork and Hamilton cabin
I am from the turkeys gobbling in the back yard
The vast bushes and ivy that I've been sick from when I used them to build a tent that still stands today

I'm from bon fires and wood stacking
From Julie and Darren
I am from moderation and hard work
I am from values and honesty

I am from getting into things and dirt and "Once for Sadie"
I am from watching the ball drop
I am from Maysville and Kentucky
I am from war heroes and claiming territory
I am from the coins from where I've been
The Corvette Museum, Dukes of Hazzard Museum, and the Grand Ole Opry
From the marine sticker on my mirror that Papaw T wants me to put on my first car

Trenton Brown
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

Where I'm from

*I'm from living in a small town in Kentucky
From t-shirts and sneakers
I'm from almost dying with my mom during birth
From Mary and Scottie O'Neal
I'm from being an Armstrong to feeling more like an O'Neal
From staring at the sky for hours at a time*

*I'm from hearing an alarm clock on weekdays
From waking up on the weekend smelling my mom's coffee
I'm from my weirdo siblings
From all the long laughs with my mother
I'm from staying up for a long time reading
From being the only one out of my siblings with glasses*

*I'm from being excited to sing
From a heart full of love and music
From knowing that my family loves me
I'm from loving Olaf the Snowman*

*From being childish a lot
I'm from baking cookies with my nana
From eating ANYTHING!!!!!!!!!!!!
I'm from being scared of storms*

From going to Tennessee climbing the Smokey Mountains

I'm from loving all animals

From loving all kinds of sports

I'm from being really girly to playing basketball

From knowing I will have a chance to do whatever as an adult

I'm from my papaw saying he is okay to him really not being okay

From my mother being in the military

*I'm from wondering what life will be like in August when I continue
my education as a 7th grader*

From bumps and bruises

I'm from knowing my ABC's way too early

From being really weird and annoying

*And most of all I'm me with all the flaws and family that loves me
dearly*

By: Keely Dean Armstrong

Laurel Elementary

Lewis County

Where I am From

I am from Laurel Creek

With the water flowing and the birds chirping

I am from the house on the hill

That my great grandparents built

To the house on the flat land that my parents and uncles built

I am from the vacations to Tennessee in the summertime

With my mamaw when she taught me how to play pool

I am from the long conversations with my best friend

When I realized no matter what, she would be my best friend

I am from Kathy and Tim, to the movies and electronics

I am from the headaches when I was younger

When my parents cried with me

To the nickname "Monkey" when I climbed my first tree

I am from the time we went to the ocean

And my papaw saw a shark

To the smell of our tart burner that smells like cupcakes

And makes us all dream of them

I am from the sadness of deaths

Of when mamaw and papaw were both dead on my dad's side

I can feel the sadness around my dad

I am from the move to my mamaw's house after she died

I am from riding horses and taking care of them

To the people who broke me when they said they didn't care anymore

To when it felt like a knife was going through me

To the endless nights of talking

I am from the friends, family, and close ones who care about me

I am from the teachers who helped me along the way

I am from the games of basketball and cheerleading

To the endless career topics

I am from the love and care of the people who have stuck with me through life

I am from the endless hellos to the endless goodbyes

To the school dances that we all love

I am from the 2nd place trophy that we got for cheerleading

To the appreciation of my friends that will never leave my heart

Mackenzie Eulett

Laurel Elementary School

Lewis County

Where I am from

I am from Lower Kinney
From the little girl playing in the creek.
Hearing the whipper-will singing

Feeling the heartache of losing my papaw.
Because his golden heart stopped beating
His working hands were put to rest
God broke my heart to prove he takes the best

I am from the nickname “Bella Roo” to “Boo Boo”
I am from heartbreaks of boys who said they cared but didn’t
I am from family that isn’t blood, and blood that isn’t family

I am from Roger and Brandi, but it’s like I’m really from my mammie, pappy,
aunts and uncles

I am from being called a “nothing” by people who don’t even know me!
To the same people using me for my money and knowledge
Some people say they hate me because I don’t give them what they want
But that’s ok my family and real friends love me for me

I am from the “I wish you were here” to “leave me alone”
From “I love you” then “I hate you”
I am from the “you’re beautiful” to the “you’re so ugly”

I am from hard working days and restless nights
I am from my pappy’s grease stained hands

I am from the men and women fighting for my freedom

I am from the harsh and hurtful words that people think bring me down but don't

To the encouraging and heartfelt words that get me through each and every day

I am from the days my papaw and I sat on the porch swing shucking corn and calling for the bird we called catbird

I can still see us calling, "Here kitty, kitty, kitty"

Although I miss him dearly he is with my Uncle Jason who was taken from us when I was only 5 years old

I am from mischievous moments to being the perfect Little angel

I am from the goodbyes that came too soon and the goodbye I always wanted

I AM ME!!

Irelyn Yates

Laurel Elementary School

Lewis County

Where I'm From

I am from the country life

From hearing cries for mom or dad at night

I am from playing a good game

From the warm soothing hugs before bed

To the good smell of my mom's wax burner

I am from the names people call me

To my friends cheering me up when I'm down

I am from the rainy gloomy days

To the warm bright days when we played

I am from being the different person

From building a tower out of Lego bricks

To the times I build one with a friend

I am from the splashes in the pool

To the time it broke

From where everything is new

To when we get two new members to our family

I am from the birds chirping.

From tasting the hot dogs fresh off the grill.

I am from the good summer days after school ends

Christian Hilger

Laurel Elementary School

Lewis County

Where I'm From

I am from my favorite rifle
in the deer lodge
I am from using papaw's shotgun
to go squirrel hunting after school
I am from people coming to visit my new house
and seeing various animal mounts

I am from watching the sun come up
and go down from the woods
I am from the cold air
of the spring and fall
I am from my papaw's truck
Where he lets me drive on an old back road

I am from hearing a turkey
gobbling in the spring
I am from tasting the wild turkey
at Christmas and Thanksgiving
I am from the sweet smell
of supper cooking

I am from hearing that my mom had a miscarriage
or I would have a brother
I am from every May 13 going to the cemetery

and holding my mom as she cries

I am from football games under the lights

I am from watching Novristch play airsoft game play

I am from whittling in the barn and listening to radio station WLW
with papaw

I am from watching deer play any chance I get

I am from my wonderful family

I am from Remington

By: Connor Kidwell

Laurel Elementary School

Lewis County

Where I'm From

I am from the country
Also I am from big trucks
The country music that I listen to
I am from a small town in Kentucky

I am from basketball
From living in a big house
With 5 other brothers and sisters
Also I am from being active

I smell axe cologne that I wear
Also, every Thanksgiving I smell turkey
I see the store when I get off the school bus there

I am from my mom, dad, mamaw, and papaw
I see the bus that takes me to school,
In my life I hear basketballs bouncing

When I play basketball outside then I can hear traffic going by me
I can hear my dog barking at me
I am from my mamaw's food sizzling in the frying pan.
I am proud to live in the big KY

By: David Blankenship
Laurel Elementary School
Lewis County

I am From

I am from the enormous mountains of southeastern Kentucky A place
where I can trace my ancestors
From where the veins of coal are found lying deep beneath the ground
I am from my beloved papaw whose precious lungs filled with deadly
black coal dust from those mines
From the shoe shop where he worked giving me pop from a machine
where the glass bottles lay down

I am from being an only child until I was almost six years old
From having a brother who constantly got hurt and was rushed to the
hospital because he was a hemophiliac
I am from being raised in church and learning about the Lord from my
Christian mother and grandparents
From a violent and harmful alcoholic father that I was terrified of
because of his harmful and wicked behavior
I am from the special grandparents who saved my life by always being
there for me and helping me
From the grief-stricken morning the death angel came to visit and my
dear papaw was taken

I am from praying at an old-fashioned altar and giving my heart to the
One who died for me
From going under the water while my proud family stood on the shore
and cried with happiness
I am from being married to the same man for almost 40 years who is
the love of my life

From the remarkable children that God blessed me with; I'm so proud and thankful for them

I am from listening to my papaw stand up in church and sing praises to his king

From nervously getting up in church to sing by myself using the talent my Savior gave me

I am from knowing that one day I will have the opportunity to see my papaw again

From knowing that God's embrace will be the "last best place" for me

By: Lisa Zornes, teacher at Laurel Elementary School

Lewis County

Written February 22, 2016

“The Artist”

I am from the 1950's, when children were allowed to play, use their imagination and have fun.

I am from the old smokehouse (my playhouse), chipped “real” dishes, mud pies baked in the sun, iron skillet pretending daisy heads sunny side-up eggs, peach leaves tasty bacon, coffee pours from the old blue granite coffee pot made from brown Dock weed seeds, soaked in water overnight, the perfect color of coffee. Inside milkweed pods delicious fried chicken legs, rose petals became a delightful salad. I am from the grand world of imagination with Mamaw showing me the way.

I am from playing “Here Comes the Bride” dressed in oversized high-heels, old white evening gown, a lace curtain veil carrying a lovely bouquet of Queen Anne’s Lace.

I am from a cowgirl, Annie Oakley, riding a fast running tobacco stick horse! Davy Crocket - wishing for a coonskin cap.

I am from Saturday morning cartoons “Mighty Mouse will save the day”. I am from baby dolls, loving them as if they were real.

I am from farm life, living off the land, going to town once a week, trading home grown eggs for sugar, washing dishes in the dishpan, drying with a dishcloth, sprinkling and ironing clothes, watching 15 minutes Soap Operas.

I am from the childhood of the 50's, a Mamaw’s everlasting love, inspiring dreams, great imagination and creativity in her little granddaughter. I am from a time when a child was allowed to be a kid, to have fun pretending, making use of things around us for entertainment, writing a letter to Santa knowing only one toy would appear under the tree Christmas morning.

I am from all these things inspired, with an imagination and to create. Now, all grownup, I am from my Mamaw that did her job well, created and inspired her granddaughter to become “The Artist”.

(Poem Dedicated to my Mamaw Bessie Schweickart)

Poem written by: Judy Geagley of Tollesboro, Lewis County, Kentucky