Introducing the new Format

Many changes have taken place in education since the first issue of *Florida Educational Leadership* was published in September 2000. Florida ASCD has continued to offer a resource that keeps educators connected and aware of the ongoing transformation in our field.

Florida ASCD wants to remain relevant to educators. In a world that offers information overload, we hope to offer you a resource that can improve your practice, extend your outreach, support your advocacy, and enlighten your experiences. *Florida Educational Leadership* journal is entering a new phase. FEL will be fully online based around themes that you want.

A survey of our membership informed us that a digital format is preferred, short, concise, yet full of timely and relevant information. With this new direction we hope will engage our members, entice future members, and be a go to source for learning, teaching, and leading.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in making Florida ASCD a resource for your professional learning.

Best regards,

Alina Davis, President

Current Issue - Theme:

Poems by Fourth Grade Students
Introduction to *Where I Am From* Poems

Kathy Rosenmann, Fourth Grade Teacher at Austin Jewish Academy

“"If you don’t know where you’re from, you’ll have a hard time saying where you’re going.” This opinion has been voiced by many who believe that we need to understand our roots to know our place in the world. We build on this idea with our first writing assignment in fourth grade. Inspired by George Ella Lyon’s poem, “Where I am From,” these students not only create powerful images with their words, but also discover what makes their experience uniquely their own.

We begin with a brainstorming page that asks the students to dig back in their memory for images that are associated with certain places, people, and objects in their lives. The children are encouraged to use sensory descriptions: sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touches of their childhood. The students then pick out the images that are the most meaningful to them and compose their poems. When they start writing, they can repeat the phrase, “I am from…,” in order to structure their poem. Feedback from the teacher and peers is essential. When I confer with each poet, I look for opportunities to stretch the writer, asking them to use details that are unique and colorful, rich and meaningful. The children then go on to peer review, revise, polish, and publish their pieces. When they are done, they have created something of themselves to share with their families that is a very personal and special gift.

The following fourth grade poems showcase their final products.

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**Attention Teachers**

If you would like to see an outline of a lesson plan for doing something like this with your students, the issue editor will be happy to e-mail materials to you. Just write: Sherron.Roberts@ucf.edu.

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**A Note to Publishing in Florida Educational Leadership**

*Florida Educational Leadership* accepts manuscripts of approximately 2,000-4,000 words which focus on contemporary educational issues, technological innovations, research in practice, and voices from the field in terms of opinions and ideas from teachers and administrators. We also accept manuscripts from K-12 students as well as from colleges and universities.

Submit your article for publication in *FEL*

Send your article to our Executive Director:
Kevin Kjellerup - Kevin19Kjellerup@Yahoo.com
He will forward article to appropriate editor.
Where I'm From - Ami

I'm from hidden candy under the bed. Glossy floors that lost their shine, from years of wear and tear, damage of young girls. From Disney on the moss green couch. Hide and seek, sardines, and made up games.

I'm from a bridge, a marvelous bridge, that stretches across the great Colorado river. Half orange, half brown as an attempt to hide the fact that some words that should not be on a bridge were.

I'm from scorching in a whopping 106 degree heat. Looking to the left and seeing rolling hills. Look to the right and see, the downtown lights, sparkling, glinting, pure beauty.

I'm from the magical world of Harry, the mythical world of Percy, the Pit of Disappear, from Princess Bride haunting my dreams at night.

I'm from barney, teaching me my first manners (clearly not too well) to Riannha teaching me nothing at all, from M and M and B.O.B interrupting the lead to talk with rhyme.

I'm from steak on Friday nights with me eating tofu, swimming in the pool watching my dad. Back from a short series of trips, fanning away at the smoke from the Green Egg grill.

I'm from Isabelle sleeping over, hanging out at Sophie's, after school with Gabriela... mix in Kalya, Ellie, and Ashley - we make up a big laughing, chatting group of lucky little girls.

I'm from a dad rarely home, who works a plane ride away, missing some of those special Fridays.

My Mom, hectic, but good at hiding it. It's sometimes a challenge.

But I'm from two of the most amazing people in the world.

And I would not change a thing.
"Where I'm From" - Ashley J

I'm from a snowy, cloudy place where the sun never shows until summer.
I'm from a small, no space between the houses, neighborhood.
I'm from a snow covered grass, never green up until summer place.
I'm from a warm and comforting home sometimes cold.
I'm from Elmo's Lost Kite, from Diary of a Wimpy Kid, from ABC Books of Dr. Suess.
I'm from lullabies, from pop, from hip hop from jazz, from ballet.
I'm from "Good Luck Charlie" from "Hi Five" from "Elmo" from" Shake it Up" from "So Random".
I'm from The Russian's that Jewish (Dad Jacobson), from The Christian's. My mom's brother died when he was 21. (Mom Devergiliis)
I'm from Aunts and Uncles Jenny, Ben, Maryellen, Joe, Vanice.
I'm from Beef Wellington from homemade food from pasta to homemade lasagna
I'm from New Jersey!
Where I'm From - Aytahn B

I'm from a dry, sweltering desert, you would expect it to be a wasteland. I'm from a late 1940's shelter with passageways from here to there, a yard like a moat, perfect for water fights and stuff on wheels, stretching around several tons of wood, insulating fiber, metal, and plaster. Beyond that stretches quiet and cozy streets, with shelters the average human would love to live in.

I'm from a music city, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, and several others.

I'm from Percy Jackson to Harry Potter and everything in that fantasy range.

I'm from Israelis, waiting for visitors which they don't always receive.

I'm from a family of doctors, the Ben-Avis.

I'm from a small group of people most of which I was too late to see, the Mintzs.

I'm from dinner at my grandparent's house on holidays: matza ball soup, rice with lentils, and shakshuka (not my favorite).

I'm from several-thousand pieced Lego sets and amazing sights.

I'm from dogfights and airports and knowledge of flight.

I'm from sword fights, craziness and a house full of boys.

I'm from one tiny frog who always stole food.

I'm from the Lone Star State.
I Am From – Ellie L

I am from the hot desert with no rain,
a big brick house of everything,
a mixture of scooters, bikes, and cars on the street.

I am from picking fruit and shooting squirrels.

I am from climbing walls, reading books, and dogs barking, wanting to play all.

I am from Inkheart, Percy Jackson, reading when I'm not allowed to,
Mom reading to us at night.

I am from Classic Rock, Selena Gomez, and fighting over the music station.

I am from "Wild Wild West' and "Dadnapped."

I am from the sea-loving Christian Landrums and the Jewish Schuslers,
where the smell of wine and matzah fills the air at Passover.

I am from 5 lizards, so many fish I can't count, a shark, and my beloved 2 dogs.

I'm from "Suck it up!" and "Lights out!"

I am from breaking bones and the relief of getting the cast off.

I am from playing outside and swimming every day,
from winning Sorry and losing Connect4.

I am from listening to Mom reading and smelling the sweet paper,
Looking through my mom's wedding album, thinking how pretty she looks.
I'm from long, scorching summers where it feels like I can reach out and pull in the heat on summer days.

I smell the smoke coming out of the chimneys on cold winter nights.

I’m from kids riding bright green and yellow bikes down the street and other kids playing football saying "Pass, Pass!", seeing cars go by and the smell of gasoline fills my nose.

I’m from houses big and small, white and green, this is my small house, big to me.

I'm from Holes, Harry Potter and Legends of the Guardians, my favorite books even to this very day.

I'm from playing baseball with Lance, David, and Ben, and climbing a tree with Ahtayn, Mitchell, and Jack.

I'm from watching Planet Earth on long, rainy weekends.

I'm from family tradition, services on Friday nights, eating apples and honey on Rosh Hashana, and eating challah on Shabbat.

I'm from trips to Florida, making sandcastles on the beach and going to Universal, Epcot, and Gatorland...All in one place: Orlando.

I'm from my old house in the hill country, seeing deer, foxes, possums, and raccoons. I miss my old house and especially my favorite cat, old white Paws.
I am from the hot state capital, often so humid in the morning that my shirt sticks to my skin. (It's not the best place to live.)

I am from a father obsessed with cutting the grass in the front yard, seeing cats all around the yard that just sit there. (They always leave droppings, yuck.)

I am from a world that loves to sing. I have always dreamed to be a singer, all I really want to do is sing. I started singing around the age of 5.

I am from the cheesy Disney movies. (Not very many interest me.) They always insult younger kids such as the Lion King.

I am from a huge family of names like Rebecca, Patricia, Matthew, Rachel, Elizabeth, John, Charlie, Joe, Nikkie, C.G., Suzan, Dan, Jed, Tommy, Virginia!

I am from a land that does not like pomegranates! My family has a tree but always dies.

I am from a dad that has Minnesotan blood and a mom that is a New Yorker with a Mexican dad.

I am from "Hold your horses!", and "I can do one at a time!"

I am from the trend of The Lightning Thief - Annabeth Chase is my hero. I admire her!

I am from a mom that converted to Judaism and dad that has been Jewish forever.
I Am From  - Jack B.

I am from longhorns swim camp, long hot days of summer, UT final swim meet, canoeing at Zilker park, and short winters.

I am from a shaded neighborhood, kids walking back and forth from Westover to their house, grownups exercising- I do the same thing.

I am from squirrels climbing up the trees, birds sitting on the electricity line, brother and sister screaming outside, trampoline on the grass, zip line from tree to tree.

I am from the playroom, Legos litter the floor, balls being thrown, Wii which (my brother plays all the time) Trouble and Candy land all over the place.

I am from my room, tons of books being placed neatly on the shelves, school memories since kindergarten packed neatly under my bed, toys all over my room, cozy bed laying on the soft carpet of my room, pictures hanging on the walls, tons of clothes in the closet.

I am from Harry Potter, Charlie And The Chocolate Factory, Erec Rex, and the Hardy Boys.

I am from the Beatles, Black Eyed Peas, and 1980s music.

I am from Ice Age, National Geographic, Phineas and Ferb, and the Suite Life on Deck.

I am from Floridians, Texans, New Yorkers, everybody born everywhere.

I am from leaving the heat of Texas and going to cold New York in the Summer and Winter.

I am from playing sports outside, building Lego things, jumping all over the place on the trampoline, creating cool things.

I am from eggs, soup, cheese, strawberries, and bananas.

I am from grandparents leading the family Seders.

I am from “you get one hour of Wii, "Myles stop bothering Jack. "If you finish dinner you will get dessert. If you don't you won't.

I am from the fun place of Radijazz, Great Wolf Lodge, Lost Pines, and Westover club.
I am from a place with no water and brown bushes that made me feel sick. I can still remember my sister hitting the volleyball on the stone.

I am from a bright lovely place with a bunny pen on the grass, a round circle connecting each house, running through the grass as wind blows on my face.

I am from a stone house with a birds nest on the top, brown windows and a black gate.

I am from Percy Jackson, Matilda, and Roald Dahl.

I am from Kesha, Lady Gaga (so she is weird, who cares?), Katy Perry, and Taylor Swift.

I am from Rio, Toy Story, Me and Cody Banks. I am from uncle’s death and sad songs.

I am from chili steak, BBQ chicken, soup, breakfast tacos, and chicken nuggets.

I am from lots of animal: bunnies, 1 hamster, 2 dogs, 2 frogs, and a fish.

I am from "I know you are but what am I?"

I am from Israel, Barcelona, Rochester, N.Y.

I am from Grandpa's 100 year old tallit and Great Grandma's martini glasses.
Where I'm From - Mitchell S

I am from the scalding heat, the dryness of the south.

I am from riding my bike under the shade of the hills, playing under the big oak tree.

I am from the humor of Dr. Seuss, the magic of Harry Potter.

I am from family vacations, the cliffs of the Grand Canyon, the sandy band of Florida, the islands of the Bahamas, the business of New York.

I am from swimming in a pool, playing in a waterpark.

I am from the Rimlers, Egyptian Jews,

I am from the Sussweins, Polish immigrants.

Where I'm From - Isabelle F

I'm from a stream that runs behind my house. Whose frigid banks freeze my toes in the spring. From the deathly summer sun that eliminates our freshly planted flowers. From pink and blue houses and bikes on the ground. To cars on the street.

I'm from smelling fresh tulips on the table and a rock star bed scattered laptops and pictures in frames

I'm from smelling the smoked ribs through the windows, yummy steaks with a side of potatoes with homemade turkey and warm gravy.

I'm from rock and country, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, and Selena Gomez. I'm from iCarly and Victorious, Stardust and Zoom.

I'm from Chrismichah my favorite season of all, mountains of gifts, I can barely see the peaks. The joy the jolly so much fun, Barbies, notebooks and in the background the menorah is glistening.

I'm from Justice flip-flops and jeans, t-shirts and heels, boots and ponies, skirts and flats, no makeup yet (Mom won't allow) just tanks and necklaces.

I'm from 2 needy cats one fat the other fierce, a noisy hamster at night a tired owl in the day. And last but not least a family who dearly wants a dog.

I’m from Austin, Texas, right where I belong.
Where I Am From  Mitchell W.

I am from a place where it is very hot and dry and is slowly becoming a desert.

I am from a place that is right by a cliff filled by forest, where the road ends and the sewer entrance takes over. I am from a place that is not on any car maps.

I am from a place that sounds like peace, smells like forest and taste like sweetness.

I am from a house with 2 yards one is big that is dotted with oaks and one small that is shaded with trees.

I am from a house that is blue, green, and yellow in the inside and white on the outside.

I am from Harry Potter, Goosebumps, and some of the Hardy Boys. I am from Rap, metal, and hard rock.

I am from the movie Thor and Captain America.

I am from my mom Phyllis and my dad Mark and my brother Nathan.

I am from computer games like Minecraft and Roblox and tsunamis destroying Lego cities.

I am from Texas where the heat takes over.
Where I'm From - Samuel G

I'm from a boat docked on three skyscrapers so high, also nothing but buildings on the horizon and construction everywhere.

I'm from five goldfish, a hamster, two dogs and a cat who cares if I don't have a rat?

I'm from three hundred ninety-six kids in second grade, twenty-two kids, two teachers in my class alone and enough room for everyone to play broken telephone.

I'm from Harry zooming by on his broomstick with a snitch in his hand and a scar on his head, in the crazy world of Dr. Seuss instead of my teddy it would be a gazooos.

I'm from the Jewish Rivkas with challah and wine and the Hispanic Ochoa's with hot tamales all the time.

I'm from eight days of Hanukkah one present each night also on Christmas I'm filled with delight.

I'm from the long elevator ride to the seventh floor, with a view of the playground and downtown Singapore.
Where I’m From   - Sophie W.

I am from two separate halves of my life ever since I was seven. It will never be easy. Luckily I will always have my sister to make fun of!

I am from a neighborhood full of friends always moving. Signs everywhere, playing thousands of games that no one ever knew the names of.

I am from a basketball hoop and a swing to keep me busy, scooter, hula-hoop, bike, stunts, tricks, having my dad rate me on a scale of one to ten.

I am from a pink room as long as I can remember, always rearranging for the interest of something new, having boxes and boxes of stuffed animals, always trying to remember all of their names.

I am from playdates, finding games that we think we will like playing it for about two minutes and then saying, "I'm bored!"

I am from one radio station, 96.7, always loving it.

I am from listening to my parents fight about who's doing the dishes or who's going to pick up the kids after school, running to my sister and falling into her arms after hearing the news.

I am from a family of Wolfs, four cousins, and some aunts and uncles, and even some grandparents. I am from a family full of different last names. Married cousins to dating uncles, new family members almost every time I visit.

I am from picky eaters some nights and vegetarians others. Then, of course, there are the carnivores.

I am from Hannukah and Halloween nights, to Purim days, sometimes Christmas even though I'm Jewish.

I am from a family of albums, seeing something and buying it just for the amusement.
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