"Where I'm From" Poem

For your next writing assignment you are going to write a "Where I'm From" poem

In class today:

To get ready to write our poems, we will read and discuss the model poem in class.

1. The model is George Ella Lyon. She chooses specific details to give us a sense of who she is.

2. Many teachers and students have written their own "Where I'm From" poems. Mine is attached. You can also check [http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html](http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html) to see (and hear) poems by students.

Directions:

1. Use the template to brainstorm objects, details, events, places, and people that you think define you, perhaps in ways you haven't thought about.

2. **For Homework, draft your own poem.**
   a. Stick pretty close to the template and categories, but make whatever adjustments you need to present your own unique experience.
   b. You can add extra lines or move lines around slightly.
   c. Note that Lyon's poem doesn't rhyme. Yours doesn't have to rhyme either. Instead, focus on being as truthful and specific as possible, on the sound and rhythms of your words, and on choosing details we can see, hear, taste, touch, and smell.
   d. Use at least one example of alliteration and one example of imagery***.

3. **Type up the poem, including a title and your name, print it out, and bring it to class.**

Alliteration is
___________________________________________

For Example:
__________________________________________

Imagery is
_______________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
What do we learn about the speaker from her "Where I'm From" Poem?

A) Take note of 5 things we learn about her childhood referencing specific lines in the poem.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

B) Reread the poem highlight and label the following:

1) At least 3 examples of alliteration

2) At least 3 examples of imagery and sensory detail (sight, sound, touch, taste and/or smell).
The *WHERE I’M FROM* Template

Use the following template to begin your poem.
Take your time and choose your details thoughtfully. They should be true, not made up.
Type up your poem in Google Drive (shared English Folder).

I am from __________________________ (specific ordinary item), from __________________________ (product name) and __________________________ (another product name).

I am from the __________________________ (specific place at home where you have spent a lot of time). __________________________(sensory description of this place - imagery)

I am from the __________________________ (item in your yard or neighborhood), the __________________________ (another item in your yard or neighborhood).

I am from __________________________ (family trait ) and __________________________ (another family trait), from __________________________ (name of family member) and __________________________ (name of another family member).

From __________________________ (something you were told as a child) and __________________________ (another saying).

I’m from __________________________ (place of birth and family ancestry), from __________________________ and __________________________ (2 foods representing your family).

I am from __________________________ (location of family pictures, souvenirs, records, memories, etc.)

_____________________________ (several more lines indicating their worth - try to use imagery or alliteration here).

________________________, __________________________, __________________________Three Adjectives to describe your childhood / where you are from.
Where I’m From
by Mrs. Sullivan

I am from curling irons and campfires, from Aquanet and Atari,
I am from Garden City, which is not a city and has few gardens,
from a faded green house on a street
where children play until the street lights awaken.

I am from the wise, old bean tree, that whispers “please sit”,
so I do and dream away.
From the yellow lilies the color of sunshine standing guard,
from the tree house with no walls- "Can’t you see it?"

I am from fair freckled skin and blue eyes,
from Rita who is Gee and Patricia who was mom.
From cutting down the family Christmas tree
which we would decorate with ornaments that each had a story.

I am from “sticks and stones”, “to each his own"
and "you have to suffer to be beautiful."

I am from peanut butter kisses and
buttery fried dough with sugar for breakfast on Saturday,
and three o’clock Sunday dinner.
From Tipperary and the vined-covered mills.

I am from the boxes of photographs that my dad has somewhere,
pictures of three children,
little league and softball,
campfires and proms,
the White Mountains and Plum Island.
I am from the picture in a jewelry box of
a young woman, belly swollen, sitting with a black lab.

See student samples at http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html.