Prewriting

Use the following categories to list specific details related to you. The key is making this as specific and personal as possible. Use nicknames or words that only you or your family use. Don't worry about readers not knowing what you're talking about.

a) Parent's names and significant relatives

b) Special foods or meals

c) Family specific games or activities

d) Nostalgic songs

e) Stories, novels or poetry that you'll never forget

f) Phrases that were repeated often

g) The best things that you were told

h) The worst things that you have been told

i) Ordinary household items

j) Family traditions

k) Family traits

l) Family tendencies

m) Religious symbols or experiences

n) Specific story(ies) about a specific family member that influenced you

o) Accidents or traumatic experiences

p) Losses

q) Joys

r) Location of memories, pictures, or mementos

Select from your lists the items you want to include in your poem. You do not have to include everything that you listed, and you can always add more categories or items to include in your poem.

Use the Moodle link to read the original "Where I'm From" poem by George Ella Lyons. You'll discover there are items, people and situations mentioned in this poem with which you are unfamiliar. That's perfectly okay, because this poem is personal and particular to the poet, not the audience.