The graphic organizer below identifies several **subcultures** in this country. Think about your experiences as members of each subculture. Then identify images or ideas that reflect each. Write those words or images in the appropriate circle.

**ACADEMIC VOCABULARY**

A **subculture** is a smaller subsection of a culture; for example, the artsy students are a subculture within the culture of a high school.
Poetry

Where I’m From

by George Ella Lyon

I am from clothes-pins
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.¹
I am from the dirt under the back porch.
(Black, glistening,
it tasted like beets.)
I am from the forsythia bush,
the Dutch Elm
whose long gone limbs I remember
as if they were my own.
I’m from fudge and eyeglasses,
from Imogene and Alafair.

Grammar & Usage

Notice the writer’s use of anaphora — the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of a line. Lyon repeats “I am from” (or “I’m from”) in each stanza. This repetition creates a pattern that emphasizes her thematic idea — her origins and history. Each use of the phrase “I am from” reveals something about the speaker’s identity.

¹ carbon tetrachloride, n., chemical used for dry cleaning

About the Author

George Ella Lyon is the author of award-winning children’s books, including Catalpa, a book of poetry that won the Appalachian Book of the Year Award, and the novel With a Hammer for My Heart. Lyon is often asked about her unusual first name. On her Website, she explains that she was named after her uncle George and her aunt Ella.
I’m from the know-it-alls
   and the pass-it-ons,
from Perk up! and Pipe down!
I’m from He restoreth my soul
   with a cottonball lamb
   and ten verses I can say myself.

I’m from Artemus and Billie’s Branch,
fried corn and strong coffee.
From the finger my grandfather lost
   to the auger,²
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.

Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
a sift of lost faces
   to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments—
snapped before I budded—
leaf-fall from the family tree.

Writing Prompt: Write your own “Where I’m From” poem emulating
the style of George Ella Lyon. Consider using anaphora to create
rhythm and an effective pattern to convey aspects of your culture.

² auger, n., a hand tool used to dig holes in wood or dirt