I am the Past, Present, and Future

BY GRADES 3 - 5
CLASSES:
3-204, 3-217, 4-213,
4-215, 5-207, 4/5-216

P.S. 125 THE RALPH BUNCHE SCHOOL
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Behind the Book’s mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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To all participating teachers for teaching the book and guiding their students in writing and art.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students’ work as received from the teacher.

This book was made possible by a generous grant from The Korein Foundation.
This book is dedicated to our ancestors who paved the way for us to be here, made huge sacrifices, many of whom fought for freedom and against injustices. Our ancestors include mathematicians, scientists, activists, doctors, educators, writers, artists, musicians, and so many others. They remind us that through horrible and unimaginable times and experiences during history, we also remember the greatness from which we come and our ancestor’s brilliance, perseverance, and beauty. Our past prepares us to be our best selves in the present and to make positive changes for the future.

We also dedicate this book to the inspirational, brilliant activists and writers Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson. Thank you for encouraging and affirming our school community, supporting us in finding our voices and to be advocates and activists for equity, ourselves and others, unapologetically.

Lastly, we dedicate this book to our families, friends, and P.S. 125 educators. This book was the product of learning about Black History through exploring who we are and knowing that Black History does not start with slavery. Throughout this experience, we reflected on how our past shapes our future, and by reading The 1619 Project: Born on the Water we saw pictures and illustrations that looked like us, celebrated who we are, and affirmed our belief now and always that Black Lives Matter.
About the Program

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and Newbery Honor winner Renée Watson, co-authors of *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, joined Behind the Book (BtB) for an all-school author event at P.S. 125 in Harlem on February 2, 2022. Six classes of 3-5th grade students, 110 in total, took part in this special event focused on this important book, which provides a pre-colonial context for Black history, while also exploring the horrific realities of slavery and the resiliency and contributions of Black Americans.

Prior to the workshop, BtB held a professional development session with teachers to prepare them for teaching the book, providing them with discussion questions, a program plan including an introductory workshop, writing, and arts activities, and graphic organizers to assist with the writing process. Each student also received a copy of the book, which they read in their supportive classroom environments. In response to the text, students wrote “Where I Am From” poems, a perfect way for young people of all ages to explore their own complex identities. BtB’s teaching artist made a video to guide them through the creative process. They drew self-portraits and created collages out of images from their poems to complement their writing.

On the day of the event, the school bulletin boards were filled with beautiful writing and art inspired by *Born on the Water*. The younger students read other books for Black History Month, and their work was included on bulletin boards for Nikole and Renée to see as well.

When the authors took the stage, the students were excited and rapt through the entire workshop; they listened as Nikole and Renée read poetry and discussed their creative process and reasons for writing the book. Then students got the chance to take the mic themselves. They stood in front of their peers, the authors, and special guests to ask questions, and some even shared their poetry. All of the adults involved were impressed by how thoughtful and moving the students’ work was, and how serious they were in their preparations.

The most passionate writers were invited to a smaller group conversation with the authors. “I liked the book because maybe people didn’t know the history of Black people,” said Shima, 9, a fourth grader. “Maybe they didn’t know it didn’t start with slavery.” Students also had the opportunity to ask questions about journalism, poetry, and other genres of writing. Finally, the event concluded with an autograph session.

Behind the Book would like to thank Nikole and Renée, the principal, teachers and staff of P.S. 125, our special guests, and especially, our wonderful students, for making this an event to remember.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Where I’m From
by Renée Watson

I’m made up of east coast hip hop and island tradition.
I’m from Baptist hymns and secular jigs.
Tambourine playin’, late night stayin’
at the church house, or my friend’s house, or
their friend’s house
(on the weekends).

Where I’m from there are corduroyed hand-me-downs
and family keepsakes. Family pictures on the wall.
Open bible on the coffee table.
I’m from that side of town.
Where the media only comes for bloodshed.
Blood wasted.
Never for blood restored, celebrated, or regenerated.

I’m from hopscotch and double dutch.
From hide-n-seek and pac man.
I’m from curry goat, rice and peas and beef patties.
From turquoise-blue water, white sand, and dreadlocks.
Reggae is in my blood.

Grew up in the Pacific Northwest.
A place where rain falls more than sun shines.
I’m from Douglas Firs and Pine trees.
Where we walk under waterfalls,
drive up windy roads to Mt. Hood
and escape to the beaches on the Oregon coast.

Where I’m from music takes away the blues.
I’m from Bob Marley, Mahalia Jackson. Aretha

I’m from Jackson 5 records and New Edition tapes.
Where I’m from we rewind tapes over and over and
over again so you can write down the lyrics and
memorize them.

Where I’m from the whole neighborhood is your
family:
ladies sit on their porches looking out for you,
shooin’ away boys like flies,
callin’ your momma to tell her what you did
before you can get home and lie about it.

Where I’m from people ask my friend,
"Is that your hair?" and she says, "Yeah it’s mine.
I bought it!"

I’m from divorce being passed down to children
like a family heirloom.
From single mommas pushing strollers,
praying that their babies don’t have the same
struggles as them.

I’m from a little goes a long way,
from sun’s gonna shine after the rain.

I’m from perseverin’ souls and hardworkin’ hands.
From a people destined to make it to their
promised land.
I’m from been there, done that, can and will do
it again.

Now you, tell me—where you from?
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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Amiyah (Mimi)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Anthony</td>
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<td>Antonio</td>
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<td>Nicole</td>
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<td>Symphani</td>
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<td>Valentina</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie</td>
<td>44</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I am from America
from my stuff, toys, and nature.
I am from my mom and dad.
And from my mom always saying “eat before you leave the table.”
I am from plants that my mom gave me whose smell reminds me of when I go to the park.
I am from something that I like to do after school is go to the park and arcade my favorite song.
I am from Julia and Luis
and from my mom’s mac and cheese and rice and beans.
I am from those moments when happy means that you feel nice and want to do nice things.
By Amiyah (Mimi)
I am From...

I am from my Bunny
from RBS, it’s like my home.

I am from a goofy brother and sister
and from my Dad always saying “get off your phone”

I am from my daisy in my room that smells like strawberries, whose color makes me feel happy.

In the morning it’s makes me tired.

I am from my indoor pool in my apartment
And Olivia Rodrigo

I am from Elaine Troy, myself and Bella, Giovanni, Tito and Fifi, Tio, and from my mom’s good mac n cheese.

I am from those moments when I play with my dogs, Bonnie and Max.
I am from the blue sea on my walls.
From my Dog comforts me.
I am from the people who loves me
And from my Homework.
I am from mr. Tree
I love my Switch and biscuit
I am from the vr to ps4
And I listen to calm music.
I am from my mom and dad.
I am from Hogdogs to say Yum
I am from those moments when people are Happy
I am From my favorite plush and moofbook
From my phone and work
And from my grandma telling me to do the best I can.
I am from a rose, its smell significant
Whose smell makes me feel at peace.
I am from my hobby after school to do homework
And I don’t have a favorite song.
I am from my mom Zina and my dad Anthony
And a person with no favorites
I am from those moments when quiet, alone and peace
I am from my bed
From the park
I am from nice
And from my Mom always saying to charge my iPad
I am from my favorite flower. It gives me good luck
I am from playing sports and marías
I am from Alex and Jake
And from my Mom’s pancakes
I am from my Mom’s house and my Dad’s house
I go to the park and am happy.
I am from my bed to the kitchen
From the lovely community in Manhattan.
I am from the people who make me happy
And from my Dad’s famous “Feed the dogs Cadence!”
I am from the leaves you see in the Fall.
Whose different color are all around
I am from drawing 24/7
And the sound of the sweet rock and pop
I am from Debbie and Ty
And from my mom’s amazing pizza.
I am from these moments when I am loved.
Cadence - 2011
I am From...

I Am From my wrestlers
From hot wheels and hot wheels track
I Am From mean
And my mom telling me to take a shower
I Am From Venus fly trap
Whose cause it is a living plant
I Am From washing tub
And never going to give you up
I Am From daisy and christina
And From my Aunt marilyn's grilled cheese
I am from those moments when I am not with my sister
I am from my computer.
From Coney Island and six flags.
I am from irritated,
and from "do your homework."
I am from trees
because they give oxygen to live.
I am from playing on my computer.
I like to play ROBLOX.
I am from Earline Dunlap and Larry Dunlap
and from spaghetti.
I am from those moments when I am on the computer.
I am from Africa
From my grandma's house.
I am from family
And no but my mom does.
I am from my BoyBlades
Whose I just like them.
I am from math and science
My favorite subjects
And Summer Sixteen.
I am from Jahnil and Nasany
And from my mom's famous mac and cheese
I am from those moments when
My mom's Birthday makes me feel wonderful
I am from my bed.
From a home.
I am from love.
And from your homework.
I am from a tree of love
I like to play with my friends.
I am from I like to play video games
And Pokemon cards and Ben Azelari's Song
I am from dad and mom.
And from I like eating my dad's mac and cheese
I am from those moments when
My living room is soft.
I am from a room that is as cold as ice.
from an iPod and a teddy bear.
I am from nice, calm
and from do your homework.
I am from a rose that smells as good
whoso it smells as good as pie.
I am from getting ice cream
and trader Olivia Rodrigo.
I am from Jennifer and Dallas
and from Burgers and fries.
I am from those moments when
I talk to my mom.

Jaë 2 4
I am from my room to the couch.
From a world of fashion.
I am from Target and Abuela/ganma's house.
And from Mama's mmmhhhh.
I am from Hawaiian flowers I have seen.
Whose pretty, mean and nice.
I am from Taco Bell mmmm.
And Dojacat and Bruno Mars.
I am from Mama and DADDY.
And from mama's mac and cheese.
I am from those moments when Mom and Dad make me feel happy.

Joelle
I am from pink walls in my bedroom.
I am from a home and a beach.
I am from love
and from finish your homework.
I am from a tree I love to climb,
whose my family loves me.
I am from ice skating to sewing,
and Blackpink to Taylor Swift.
I am from Elida and Noel
and from rice and beans!!!
I am from those moments when I feel loved

Luna
I am from my mom
from my dark doll
I am from my dark doll
And from I love to help my grandma with chores.
I am from daisies
whose daisy color makes me happy.
I am from to go to morningside Park
and I like to make things.
I am from mami and Kashon
and from mac and cheese
I am from those moments when happiness happens.
I am from my very large rooms in Oregon.
From my catfish and Legos
I am fun.
And from ‘Did you do your homework today?’
I am from two grape plants that always give you the best grapes in the world.
I am from books that are always filled with fun adventures.
I am from bookshelves of books and lots of art supplies and dragon songs.
I am from Charlotte and Wiskers.
And Chinese Dumplings and Chinese Noodles
I am from those moments when I first went to China.
I am from seeing people walking by:
From different types of food.
I am from going to people homes for
the holiday.
And from peachy painted walls.
I am from walks up the hill,
whose time is spent going to the
park.
I am from ballet class on the
weekend.
And music to take away the blues.
I am from playing hopscotch and
homework.
And from pizza on the weekend.
I am from those moments when
people are happy, sad and mad.
I am From blue walls and pink all around me
I am From friends and teachers at school
I am from playing games with my family
And from love and peace
I am from roses are red, violets are blue
Which make pretty colors all around me
I am from pictures and art
And my teacher’s relaxing jazz
I am from my mom and dad
And my grandma’s memories
I am from those moments when my parents say ‘I love you’.
I am From...

I am from where I live at my home.
Sometimes and at my dad’s home.
From my stuff at my mom, and other stuff
that my dad buys.
I am from I have dad and mom
and sister and nephew.
And from eating vegetables.
Kind of doing my homework.
I am from flowers.
Whose smell I like.
I am from using my phone.
And dropping all my money.
I am from mom and dad and pizza.
I am from those moments when I sleep.
Class 3-204

Amani 48   |   Jayden 66
Cameron 50   |   Jordan 68
Clay 52   |   Leandrra 70
Colton 54   |   Lenox 72
Dillon 56   |   Madison 74
Emma 58   |   Melanie 76
Iris 60   |   Milo 78
Jacob 62   |   Minka 80
Janella 64   |   Sophie 82
Will 84
I am From

I am from my computer
From home and Japan
I am from a serious family
and from mom saying "Time for school!"
I am from Mount Everest
whose mountain peaks are cool!
I am from playing games
and every type of music
I am from mom, dad, and brother
and from sushi and rice bowls
I am from those moments when I am
playing games.
I am from stuffed animals
from my home and my cat
I am from a loving family
and from "it's time to go to bed"
I am from the spiny balls from the sweet gum tree that my cat likes
I am from muay thai
and Believer
I am from Lesley and Assane
and from tacos and French fries
I am from those moments when I sleep
I am From...

I am from a warm cup of hot cocoa
from a massive park and a great athletic club
I am from a cute family
and from “what could go wrong?”
I am from the rocky wall at the park
that is climbable
I am from reading
and alone
I am from Devon and Noah
and from Pumpkin Pie and my aunt’s cornbread
I am from those moments when I am in the city park
I am From my brown sketch book full of drawings from the wooden table where I create cool things.

I am from Harlem and a joyful family and from a safe place to be myself.

I am from the four seasons each year whose that make me feel so good.

I am from laughter, playtime, and struggles in the bed and dancing to “monster” and “trolling”

I am from Brian and Aliya and from dad’s mozzarella cheese and mom’s cheese quesadillas.

I am from those moments when I am relaxed and feeling my very best.
I am from my PS5
from New York
I am from a crazy family and
from Dad always saying “Do your
homework!”
I am from water that is good
and texture is smooth.
I am from swimming and PS5 and
the song “Start Sage.”
I am from David and Sanayi
from chicken and ramen noodles
I am from those moments when I feel
calm.
I am from my sculptures, to my paint set and books
From my stuffed animals to the sweet waves of the beach
I am from a crazy family
and from my mom saying “Time to get up”
I am from the sweet smelling roses to the pretty daisies
whose petals are beautiful and pretty colors
I am from the smell of the paint to the perfect canvas
and the sound of pop music like “Kids Bop”
I am from my talented mom and my cool dad
and from the taste of my mom’s rice and beans
I am from those moments when I am lying in bed
I am From... 

I am from the doll that smells like peach from the sweet ice cream. I am from a kind family and from "Iris do the dishes." I am from the breeze of an oak tree whose wind is soft.

I am from going to the park and from "Girl on Fire." I am from Lila and Zoey and from pizza that has cheese and Zoey.

I am from those moments when I sleep.
I am from my bed
from Dominican Republic
I am from a loving family
and from where my family says "eat your food or it will eat you"
I am from a rose
whose petals look nice
I am from the park
and "Dance monkey"
I am from Ann and Henry
and from pancakes and bacon
I am from those moments when I feel excited.
I am From...

I am from my stuffed toys
from the fresh sunrise and the Water
I am from early birds who go back to sleep
and get things done
and from the saying “get up” or “wake up”
I am from the leaves falling off the trees
whose colors are beautiful and soft
I am from drawing on white paper
and sucker
I am from Shirley and Jason
and from my grandma’s mac’n cheese
and mom’s meatballs and spaghetti
I am moments when I get sleepy.
I am from teddy.

From tablets and toy cars.

I am from kind and adventurous.

And from "Hasbuns don't give up!"

I am from I love to climb my tree because it was my first tree.

I am from playing games

And chaos

I am from jade and kauri

And pasta and pizza

I am from those moments when

I am at the beach
I am from my room
From New York
I am from a happy family
And from a happy family that likes to cook
I am from a flower
Whose scent is pleasant
I am from sleeping
And piano
I am from Elisa and both and Kobe
And from burgers and fries
I am from those moments when I am sleeping
I am from my sketchbook
from Albania and Manhattan
I am from a caring family
and from my dad always telling me to do homework.
I am from the cactus from my aunt
and I got my cactus when my mom was pregnant.
I am from art
and the Diary of the Whimpy Kid
I am from Li's and omer
and from my dad's special meat and my mom's good pancake's
I am from that moment when my baby brother was born.
I am from my big white pillow on my bed.
From my stuffed monkey and my soft bed.
I am from a family of multiple races.
And from when my father says "Lenox are you done with your homework?"

I am from the bright yellow corn.
That I adore because of its astonishing smell and taste.
I am from the black Nintendo Switch at my home.
And the soothing I hear every morning.
I am from Christopher and Tania.
And from my dad’s burritos and my mom’s waffles.
I am from those moments with my family.
I am From my fluffy dog
From Morningside Park and a Pool
I am from a not so taped together tight family
And from the saying of “everyone here is a pig”
I am from the yellow petals of Sunflowers
Whose yellow petals bring memories of my Grampa.
I am from a hobby of eating
And Spanish and pop music
I am from Sue and Henry
And from Abuelo’s rice, chicken, beans and mom’s chili
I am from those moments when I am in the cold pool.
I am from my slime
from my grandmas house
I am from a happy family
and from "go to bed"
I am from cherries
whose fruits taste so good
I am from going to pizza
and I love Mwatifia
I am from lucia
and Nena
a happy family.
I am from **my Nintendo Switch**, from my scooter and toys.
I am from happiness and from going to school.
I am from **my dog, Teddy, who is fun to play with**.
I am from **basketball and camp music**.
I am from **my mom and dad**.
I am from **corn and ice cream**.
I am from those moments when I’m having fun, but relaxing, too.
I am From... 

I am From my Plushie Flamingos in my room 
From East Harlem
I am From “We’re not going out today”
and from Jonny always saying to eat My Food
I am From Bille
Who Smells fresh and good
I am from me going to the Park
and listen to Dance monkey and Bruno Mars
I am from Jonny Welty
I am from mommys good Bacon
Damn it those moments when there is Peace at home
I am from the lamp that keeps shining bright
From my stuffed animal that has been there for me even in my hardest times.
I am from a caring mom, a loving grandma, and a dog who loved me dearly.
I am from a beautiful rose
Whose petals remind me of true love.
I am from a music family, my mom knows how to sing,
and my favorite song 'Driver's License' by Olivia Rodrigo.
I am from my mom and my dad
And from my mom’s pasta and meatballs.
I am from those moments when I’m with my dog and family.
I am From...

I am from a safe for my money
from Central park
I am from a loving family
and from dad always saying "Do your homework"
I am from water
Whose waves are nice
I am from going to the park
and I am something else
I am from Jay and Jane
and from tacos and mac-n-cheese
I am from those moments when peace
## Class 4-215

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Elina</td>
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I am From...

where I am from is Harlem.
I love the people and I love the stores I wish there was less violence in Harlem.

I feel at home with my mom and my sister. My bed makes me feel at home. The when I am on my bed I feel at peace.

The sound of my baby brother reminds me of home. Also, the smell of my mother's cooking reminds me of home.

In Harlem there are a lot of stores with beautiful clothes. In Harlem there are many people. Harlem is my home because it feels happier when I'm at home.
Where I am From...

I am from Houston but my family is from India and Trinidad. I’m a mix of everything. The things I love about these places is the street in batter. I love the clothes in India. But I also love the food from Trinidad.

Something I wish is for the fights to stop and the killing in Trinidad at least I wish.

The people that make me fell at home is my sister my dog my cat my bived too. I have a lot of pets but they make me fell at home. Things that make me at home is my stuffed animals make me fell at home.
By Makayla
Where I am From...

I am from west harlem, 125th harlem is a home for me is a place where my family and friends lives in harlem. There are alot of different stores and a famous theater, Apollo.

People in the staircase peeing and taking a poop, shooting and smoking playing games until 4 o'clock in the morning where im from kids playing in the hallway having fun and playing marke pole and numbers the hallway of a building become the central place for kids like me.

Where im from people having cookouts and having fun hanging out with eachother and meeting new people where im from young kids smoking and looking like zombies and shooting where im from my mom cooking rice and beans and fried chicken and collard greens where I from people walking around with knives, guns and other weapons where im from people rob people houses and hurt them.
Where I am From...

I'm from a place called Harlem. I feel home at Dominican Republic. I feel home at Harlem 125 street.

I love Harlem. I love people, the food, the buildings, and it's peaceful and quiet. I wish there's no violence and no firecrackers at night.

I feel home with family, friends, and my turtle Julies.

My turtle Julies makes me at home.

The sound of my mom cooking and my TV reminds me of home. The taste of my mom's hot rice and meat reminds me of home.

When I am happy, excited, mad, at my brother, reminds me of home. My room playing with my minidolls with my sister.
Where I am From...

I am from Harlem where there are everything right there at my building it is a park. With dirty slides but the kids can still play regardless of.

What I love about Harlem is next to a building is a store where I from the guy behind the desk waves at you because you are little.

I wish there was less violence in Harlem. I wish drugs in Harlem.

Where I’m from I feel at home with my aunt that lives above me. I feel at home with my mom and cousin’s and dad. My messy bed with a cover to be a pillow makes me feel at home. My mom and aunt talking in the middle on the night make me feel at home.
Where I am From...

I feel at home in my neighborhood called Harlem. I love Harlem because of the nice people and beautiful buildings. I wish I could change kids raping and harming people.

My mom, my brother, my teachers such as Mrs. Luna and Mr. Fineo, my laptop, my phone, my bed, songs that my mom plays like Michael Jackson's. When I get tired, it reminds me of my soft bed at home.

If I eat spaghetti, it reminds me of my mom's good spaghetti. My toys remind me at home also. The smell of my mom's good food while I'm playing with my toys.
By Charli
Born New York

Born New York. I was born in New York on 4/7/2012. Where I live it is sunny and sweet. Where my mom cooks food where I live is here. I grew up in Queens where my dad works. Born in Queens that means I love me. Mama always said "inside is good sometimes eat nothing good like us. I didn’t know what that means nothing is good without you. That’s why I love you and am proud. I am in New York."
Where I am From...

I am from 125th Harlem there are parks to play. I love the parks, the lights, and there are stores everywhere. We will never run out of storage in Harlem. I wish to change the noise at night time. Do you know that Harlem have fireworks and firecrackers at night time and it is not a holiday.

Where I’m from I hear the sounds of my family that makes me feel at home. It is my sister yelling and my tv playing on the news and some music. The tastes of food reminds me of home. It is my mom’s macaroni and her fried chicken. Tastes sweet. When I get annoyed I lay on my bed and then feel relaxed. Where I’m from Mr. and my sister and brother play video games.
Where I am From...

I am from 20th street in Brooklyn. In Brooklyn it is calm. People are in their homes. In 20th street there are people like me, Arabic. The women are wearing their hijab. I wish there were less shooting and more stores selling more food products.

My mom makes me feel at home. Something that makes me feel at home is my bed and phone. My bed is the softest bed you will have and my phone is amazing.

Where I from kids play in the park all afternoon and I can hear it. Then tastes that remind me of home is kiwad.

Where I from everyone is happy and nice. My community was happy when I move in the house. It looked amazing so many room but the best part was with my mom.
By Jose

POPPI PLAYTIME
Where I am From...

I'm from where people help the community provide opportunity for children like me. I'm from the people who help each other and work together.

Where I'm From I can go to the park for air and get some exercise also. I'm from Harlem. I attend PS125 school. We are a communititive and help each other.

Where I'm from I hear my dog. I walk into the door then my dog barks time she move her to say hello. Where I from every day is a bad day my sister always arguing and my baby brother saying play with me all day long.

Where I'm from I have different taste like rice, beans, Mac and cheese and lot's of chicken.

Where I'm from the feeling I feel is my family, friends and my dog.
Hi, I am Rodas. I love my mom and I love to play soccer.
Where I am from I am from 125 west harlem but I feel at home in new Jersey because my grandparents live there in New Jersey. I feel the love of my grandparents I love that the people are nice and the service is really good. I wish that there was less garbage to make the world cleaner.

The person that makes me feel at home is my mom she makes me feel at home. Something that makes me feel at home is my bed that makes me feel at home too.

The sound that I hear when I am at home is my tv and my phone. At home when I taste pasta and lasagna it reminds me of home. My home is full of taste, flavor, and feelings. A feeling that reminds me of home is being happy at home. A memory of playing and reading with my mom.
I am from 125 st in Harlem. I love
the lights in Harlem and people. I wish
there were less violence in Harlem.
I wish there were less homeless in
the streets.

I feel at home with my mom and
my stuffed animal bulldog. It makes
me feel at home and safe. I Harlem
I feel home with so many colorful
people.

people talking loud remind me of home
and my mom's food remind me of home.

When I feel calm it reminds me of
home. An event that captures my
home life is when my family comes
to my house.

I love all the colors in Harlem and I love
all the music in Harlem and that's why I love
my home in Harlem.
Divine
I am from Queens. Where kids relax and play, Most of the area is filled with fresh air. (I wish that Queens was a cleaner area).

Where I’m from, my sister and brother will always have my back. (When I lay down in my bed I feel at home).

Where I’m from I can listen to the sound of rain while I am eating soup.

Where I’m from I can watch movies with my mom and relax in bed.
Where I am From...

I feel at home when I am at my house on 29th street in Harlem. I want to change the littering at parks because sometimes the litter can end up in the water. My mom and brother make me feel at home because they love me and care about me.

I love my home because I have very valuable things at my house. Things that make me feel at home are the toys my mom makes for me.

Sounds that make me feel at home are the birds that chirp when I wake up and look out the window. Tastes that make me feel at home are the food my mom makes for dinner.

Feelings that make me feel at home are when I was sitting on the sofa and listening to the window during sunny days.

Events that capture my home life are when I went sledding with my mom and brother.
By Alicia
Where I am From...

I am from 125th W. Harlem. Harlem is where my family lives. I felt at home at Harlem.

What I love about those places is that you can get to know people. For example, one day I was walking home with my mom. I saw this lady with some kids and I wanted to join them and they let me play with them. It was so fun to play with them. What I wish was different about Harlem is the littering all over the place.

What I love about Harlem is the very nice people. You can find some nice people. Who makes me feel at home is my mom and dad and my dog and family and friends. Also, my kid's phone makes me feel at home and also my mom and dad's box.

The noise from the street reminds me of my home, for example, the ambulance driving by my room. Also, the food of my mother fried chicken, pasta, and clones, and candy bars, cooker greens reminds me of my home.

Being relaxed, tired of my big sister being annoying, reminds me of home.
Where I am From...

I am from 120th street, parks, buildings and people.
I love to play with video games because they are fun to play with.
I wish my house was underground.
My friends make me feel at home because they are kind.
My little brother crying and tv.
The good smell of steak sizzling.
Tired from school.
Christmas and thanksgiving capture my home.
Where I am From...

Where I am from is Santa Cruz, California. Where the sun is everywhere. Every day is summer. The sun embraces our bodies and minds. It is so sunny that we have to wear T-shirt, shorts and sunglasses.

I'm from laying and beaches and lo acte yards where the streets are spotless and peaceful.

I'm from books and stuffed animals. All my friends and family are happy and laughing.

I'm from crashing waves and people laughing where the tastes are bittersweet, umami and spice.

I'm from excitement, joy, happiness, laughter and happy children.
By Elina
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<td>Yahima</td>
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Where I am From...

Where I'm from, I could read and play on many different devices. Where I'm from, we don't care if we are boring or stylish. Where I'm from, we leave our windows open for fresh air. Where I'm from, before school, we do our hair.

Where I'm from, you could take after-school naps. Where I'm from, we do not need paper maps. Where I'm from, street lights turn on at night. Where I'm from, adults pay bills for water and light.

Where I'm from, we have to wear masks to protect ourselves from COVID. Where I'm from, when people go traveling, their cars are loaded. Where I'm from, people order burgers with tomato, lettuce, and cheese. Where I'm from, on hot summer days, people want to feel the wind and its breeze.

Where I'm from, people protest about black lives matter. Where I'm from, popular places are filled with talking and laughter.
I am from York.

By Vivienne
Where I am From...

I feel at home is at the its big lights and bill boards time square. Things that I love about New York is the cold weather and the snow. I wish the street were cleaner and not so dirty. My friends Makayla and Keith and they make me feel at home. Spending time with my family and they make me feel at home. When I first arrive to PS 125 I felt like I was at home. Sad and happy and make funny memories with ur family.
I want to eat it be normal
Where I am From...

Places that make me feel at home are California, Japan, Harlem. What I love about Japan is very clean. What I wish is different about California is that there were no wild fires.

People that make me feel at home is my family, cousins, grandparents. Things that make me feel at home are the amazing animals at the zoo, the clear sky, sounds that remind me of home, the dogs barking, the cars and buses honking, and a large crowd of people.

Tastes that are the crunchy popcorn, the cheesy French fries, the icy ice cream, the sizzling hamburgers. Feelings that remind me of home are happy for the dogs barking with each other when they play, the sad people when they lost their jobs, the loud people when they got in the fight. These are the things that remind me home.
A place with a lot of tall buildings, busy streets and a lot of traffic. This is New York. I love the place where people are giving homeless people money for food, clothes, and shoes. I wish that NYC will stop littering and to stop being mean to people to people before you get to know them. People who make me feel at home are my grandma, grandpa, dad, and my mom because they help me out with everything. My dog, my sketch book, and my IPad because they all keep me company and they make me feel happy. People in our home and putting loud music and dancing. Kids playing board games and playing tag are the sounds of home. I remember going to a restaurant to eat rice with chicken, kids eating, adults eating a full plate, kids eating half a plate or a full plate. I remember when kids danced, played games, and adults dancing with family or friends. Kids playing games in their devices. Events that capture my home life is when kids went to our house and we played board games.
The city where I live never sleeps. At night the stores close without making a peep. In summer the kids play all day, while the grass just sways from side to side. I love this place.

There are a few problems, though. Like trash on the floor. This I wish I could change.

The people that make me feel safe are my family and friends. They make me feel happy. In winter I feel at home when the snow is falling and I am cozy.

The sound that makes me feel at home is cars going by at night. A feeling that reminds me of home. Is calm.

When I can relax, my favorite thing to do is play games with friends.
By Marlo

Marlo

❤️

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Where I am From...

I am from New York, the sound of blaring car horns fill the air. I am from Canada where no matter what happens, everyone cares. The way you can easily have a smile on your face, the way you never have to pick up the pace.

Sometimes when I look in the sky, I wish that nobody would ever lie. When I walk into the office and see my mom's pleasant smile, it reminds me of the calm, pleasant Nile. When I hear my dad's footsteps coming down the hall, it reminds me of the many footsteps in the mall.

The tall trees that greet you as you walk, the kind old neighbor who always stops to talk. The fancy old car that drives down the street everyday, the sign on the highway saying, GO THIS WAY. The sound of wet rainboots along the metal grates, the sound of the loud, quick trains. The taste of my dad's delicious fish, the taste of my mom's cupcakes as you make a wish.

Feeling happy makes me think of playing games with my sister, feeling angry reminds me of times when people hurt me. When the fireworks go off on the Fourth Of July, I stare up at the beautiful sky.
A place where the buildings are tall the lights never go off it’s the city that never sleeps. I’am from New Y.

I love those days who it snows and you curl up in your bed and get cozy.

I wish there were no homeless people, you wouldn’t see people sleeping on the ground.

The people that make me fell at home are my mom she always make waffles that come out the kitchen that bring joy and hunger.

I love those days when I’am on my sofa and get all cozy and I watch netflix.

The sound that makes me fell at home is the sound of cars beeping and siren screams for help.

The taste that reminds me of home is the taste of noodles with tomato Sauce, hearing the slurp of sucking them up.

The feeling that reminds me of home is when I wake up on a school day and my mom makes me go.

The event that makes me feel at home is Christmas and it is snowing and you open presents with your family.
Where I am From...

I feel at home where the streets are never empty. This is my new home, where I’m from. I’m loved. Where I’m from, I wish for know more.

where I’m from people make me feel at home. where I’m from there is always chatter. where I’m from there’s places with good food I’ve never tried.

where I’m from we have family events. this is where I’m from.
I fell at home where a blue lake shines. I fell at home at the cottage. I can run around in the clean cut grass or swim in the big blue lake or a game of cards in the sun. I wish my friends can come over in the hot sun on afternoons and play in the lake after a good hot tub.

The person that makes me feel at home is my after a calm afternoon in the park or a ger. We all stuffed in black fur and people eyes that are bigger than his brain in size.
Where I am From...

Where I'm from a famous building stands in the middle of a popular city. Amazing food everywhere you go. I feel connected to a place where you'll find anything you need in a supermarket. Where I go to visit my grandma and have so much space to run around outside in my grandma's yard with the huge trampoline to play in. I love it when my cousins come to stay and we play together. My whole family is there too. I wish that my cousins could stay for longer and we can play together longer. I like playing soccer in the sunny fields, kicking the ball across the grassy floor. I like the backed potatoes my grandma makes for dinner after a long day outside, sitting with my family eating lunch under the warm sun. That is my favorite event of the day.
Where I am From...

my house is very loud because my mom is always on the phone or work call. I like that some people work together and that there are meals.

My mom, brothers, and dad make me feel at home because my brothers crack jokes that are corny. My two stuffed pets make me feel at home. One is a frog and the second is my teddy bear.

Sounds that reminds me of home are my dad's meditation music, taste that remind me of home are my mom's rice and beans.

When I'm home I feel loved. I remember her the first time I rode my skate board I fell out for rocks next time I will...
Where I am From...

A place where I feel at home is a busy area where people never go to sleep and lights never go out. I love when people tell jokes and they will laugh at it and also talk about what they love.

What I wish will be different is if people were more kind and no more conflicts. I feel at home in a place where there is laughing all the time and talk about family business.

A thing that makes me feel at home is a small toy that easily gets lost every time and very day. Sounds that make me feel at home is loud music, cars beeping and bombing. Feelings that remind me of home is when happiness comes to anger when light becomes dark.

Events that capture my life is sad to funny to happy to mad all the memories at home where family comes first all things is true.
Where I am From...

Where I'm from there is loud music and laughter. Tall buildings and dogs barking. I love that I can feel safe day and night.

I wish that I don't have to see homeless people begging for food and limping step by step.

When I'm home my mom makes me feel at home. I also love when my cats rub there furry heads on me. A sound that makes me feel at home is the people chatting and laughing. A taste that makes me feel at home is my mom's home-made rice and beans.

A feeling that makes me feel at home is when I'm playing with my cats running around the house.

A event that happens in my community is when they close of the road and there's loud music.
I am from America where we are calm and peaceful. In America we are not hurtful to others. In America we always are here forever.

I love that my friends and family stick with me. I love that they always love a treat. I love how I am never alone and they are always by my side. I wish that there is no more conflict and drama so everyone can be kind. I wish that every one could be fine. If everyone would be nice we would all be fine. I am at home with my dad and my TV. I am at home with my family. I am at home in a comfortable place with peace. People that make me feel at home are my mom and dad. People that make me feel at home are my family and friends.
When I am alone they give me love and comfort. The sound of the loud microwave makes me feel at home. The sound of the loud TV waves. Those sounds may be annoying but it’s ok.

The taste of cheesy macaroni tastes so good. The taste of fast food is so cool. These foods are the best. My feelings are the coziness of my soft bed. My feelings are the hug of my mom. Sometimes it is not soft but it’s okay because it does not always have to be. Events are Christmas, opening gifts and joy. Maybe I can get a toy. Christmas is the best time of the year. Nobody would end a year. Christmas is my favorite event. Hopefully I would see it again.
I am From...

I am from America where you can play on the bright yellow monkey bars and never stop. There is no time when it is dark you can always find one more spark.

I love that wherever I go I am never alone and whatever you do there is always someone supporting you. I wish I could change that there is no more garbage anywhere that way the world would be so much cleaner. I wish there was no more global warming that way all the polar bears would not be endangered.

People that make me feel at
home is my mom, my brother, my dad, and friends. When I am not at home I think about them then I am not so alone. Some things that make me feel at home is my cat and my bed. When I am far from home I imagine I am with those things and I am not so alone.

Some sounds that remind me of home is the loud beeping car horns on the busy highway. Another sound that reminds me of home is the sound of the warm heater ticking.

Some tastes that remind me
Home is my dad's warm curry with all sorts of different color vegetables and all sorts of nutrients. Another taste is my dad's warm miso with tofu seaweed and more. Some feelings that remind me of home is the feeling of my soft furry cat. Another one is my soft cotton pillow. Some events that capture my home life is when we celebrate Japanese children's day when we hang up fish flags and watch them sway in the wind.
I come from New York where the streets are filled and busy. I love the space, toys, food, and more! But there could be more room to play in my room. People that make me feel at home are my mom, dad, Sonic plush and the toys in my room make me feel at home. The stale room and the sound of my dad playing Fortnite. Happy, sad etc. are the feelings of home.
Where I am From...

I am from a place that never goes to sleep and that is awake and that its lights never turn off. I am from New York. One thing that I love about New York is that my home is there and that I can trust it.

I wish that there were less crimes and that it was a peaceful city. People that make me feel home are my mom and my dad because my mom loves me and cooks for me. My dad also loves and he takes care of me also he cooks for me and my mom.

In my room I feel at home with my stuff animals. Sounds that remind me of home is the sounds of the cars and the sound of the tv.

The taste that reminds me of home is Hotdogs and Tey's.

Joyful, happy and excited remind me of home. Christmas and Easter is the event that makes me feel like home.
Where I am From...

I am from a city where the city is in shape of an animal. Where I am from, every big park has its own dance. Japan is what I call home.

When I go to bed the warm sound of my grandma's voice and the odd ice that I sneak in my mouth. Japanese songs that my friends sing with hope. My stuffies that smell like the flowers of my home. My Japanese home.

The food that I love that I eat with my family. The people that make me feel at home are my mama who holds me tight. My papa who protects me. My grandparents that make me feel welcome wherever I am. That's what we call home.

One thing I would like to change is that I wish my home was bigger. I miss the happiness that Japan sent me every morning as a gift.
Yahima

By Yahima
New York City

Where I'm from there are rainboots against the ground, as if nobody heard a sound. My Mom's soup "Gloop! Gloop!" we share smiles with anyone. Mom goes out for her daily. She almost knows everyone.

Bagels and hotdogs fill the air. Meanwhile outside dogs honk and blare. Dad's coffee spills everywhere. Backpack on for the day, I'll come back with a happy face. Raw chicken fills the air. While my Mom plops the chicken in the pot, I get my PJs on. The next day the sun shines in my face. I shuffled outside, in delight. Dad calls out "Breakfast is ready!" I run back inside; this day is a good one!

"It oughta be just fine"
### Class 4/5-216

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Where I am From...

I am from my plush toys. I am from my old bed. I am from a small apartment. I am from a small plant whose bin is growing all day and all night. I am from old shoes and old clothes from mom and dad. I am from Baliz clothes and Baliz bags and Baliz Baliz scarfs. From eating Spanish food. I am from my Great Granma and Gampa. From tamales and ipomoads. From me and Great Granma. I from those moments of birthday parties and New Year’s.
By Makayla

Love
I am from New York City where I never knew or see my future. From New Jersey where my mom gave birth to me in a hospital. I am from New York City where you can only see from the projects. And I grew up in the projects with my family. I am from New York City where you can see my beautiful face. I am from New Jersey where my mom gave birth to me on April 2, 2011. I am from New York City when I was 8 or 7 years old. From New Jersey and New York City, I am from the Bronx where I love to go to see my grandmother. And when everybody respect others. And from the Bronx where my mom use to take me where I was little. And from the Bronx where my grandmother use to baby sit me when I was 4 years old. I am from New York City where I grew up with my best friend I am from. I am from New Jersey when I grew up having a little girl’s pink car. I am from the Bronx where I use to share a room with my siblings. I am from New Jersey where I use to use my siblings to clean our room. And from New York when I looked up to my family. I am from those moments that make me feel at home, is my friends, my family, my teachers, my class mates.
By Kevin
I am from New York City.

From Broadway I am.

From the second floor.

From a lot of stories.

I am from Kitty, my cat whose fur is white and black.

I am from Deman some.

And from block here in I am.

From chicken and mashed potatoes.
Where I am From...

I am from Harlem,
from my mom's hospital,
and my mom.
I am from my family,
whose sounds make me happy.
I am from my cheese and breakfast,
and from ferry wheels.
I am from door knock
and from nonviolence.
I am from those moments
Christmas Halloween.
I am from New York and Harlem.

From the poorset.

I am from a lot house.

And I have my own room and the color is pink.

I am from a lot people who

Whose is black and white.

I am from Harlem.

From family.

And loving and nice.

And from the 12th floor.

From nice people.

I am from loving and nice and a lot plant.

From a lot music.

From a lot of dances.

And from a lot of books in my room.
Where I am From...

I am from Hayward to 135 then to Richmond VA. From a place where I felt welcome even if I don’t. I am from a generation of old and new school and video games and technology. I am from noisy environments hanging walls to shooting. Who’s a book with graffiti me. I am from a creative parent who I will always love. I am from a loving parent. From perseverance and my favorite. From my experience challenges will be tough from all I have been thought I am from comfort.
Where I am From...

I am from NYC and DRL.
from Harlem.
I am from Nintedo.
And I pad.
I am from my mom,
whose hugs make me happy.
I am from music.
from nyc lasalle set.
I am from bacon and eggs.
and from my mom food.
from stories I listen to.
I am from music I hear and I,
muv my nobby.
I am from hiphop.
from getting stupid.
from钙*xi: video games.
And from my dad buying me Raisinet.
I am from those moments when
times were good and fun.
I am from New York, from Brooklyn.

I am from video games and books.

I am from noise rods that I don’t like.

I am from my gramma and grampa.

I am from my dog and from West 159th.

I am from games I play.

I am from gramma since 1673.

And my grampa since 1671.

I am from Vanessa, I’m addicted to it from TVs and from my android phones and video’s. I am the sis.
Happy Drawings

1. My Dog
2. My Mom
3. God
4. Pope
5. Fishing
6. Love

By Mailee
I am from sketch books
from dog Murasa, sower sweet
I am from small rooms
and bed rooms nice
I am from home
Whose my mom's
I am from my dog
and my happy place
and school
from math
from reading
I am from my mom
I am from my dad?
from life
and from happy art
I am from those moments getting Murasa
my dog
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I am not African. African is in me but I cannot return. I am not Faire. Faire is in me, but there is no way back. I am not European. European lives in me but I have no home there I am new. History made me. My first language was Spanglish. I was born at the crossroads and I am whole.
I am from the many colors I grew up with and from gyro and not beef patties.
I am from family and good fortune and love and happiness. I am from tree-dotted sidewalks whose very presence purifies the air. I am from books and TV shows, mother and father.
I am from Christianity and justice and everlasting love and unceasing kindness.
I'm from "Love thy neighbor." I am from Haitian and West African descent, from rice and beans, from slavery, from revolution, from liberation and from the warm touch of my great-grandfather.
I am from those moments with kindness, justice, and equality.
My Nice Home

I am from my bunny stuffed toy from my beads and hair clips. I am from my folks who still live in my childhood home, and when I am home with them, I usually feel the best. And always having some rules. I am from cactus and trees who always speak to me for fun. I am from my toy cars and toy dolls from my mom. I am from a baker and a cooker, from a crafter, and from an artist. I am from 1 foot of snow from rice and beans also stewed chicken. From when I learned to walk. And from my lego bricks. I from lots of things and family.
The Harlem City

I'm from where leaves fall down looking crispy and ready for fall, flowers growing to bloom some red, yellow and orange like the sunset. The city lights shine at night being the beautiful city ever people thinking it's gunshots. I'm from kids playing outside and neighbors watching them. I'm from where adults have tea with there neighbors and talk about the latest news. Parent gossips to parent and parent about how another mom takes care of their child. I'm from where music takes away all the rage you have. Parents and children swaying thier body to the beat instruments playing every single day music that no one can get tired of. Heritage food coming out of the oven smelling fresh and ready attracting all the kids. I see the stars dazzling of sparkle at night, I hear the roughness of the ocean waves flowing at night.
I'm from with loud noise
tall boy playing with toys.
I'm from chopped cheese with
candy on a Friday nite. I'm
from Xbox to PC to P35. I'm
from watching TV on my bed.
I'm from riding my bike
on a Friday nite. I'm from
taco Tuesday. I'm from playing
on my phone all day long.
I'm from 42nd street on the
weekend. I'm from Mand M stores
and that where I'm from
Brooklyn New York.
I come from the smell of a hot deli sandwich, and I come from the sight of skyscrapers. I come from the feeling of rough bricks, and I come from the sound of cars and trains. I come from the taste of hot cocoa in the winter and lemonade in the summer.

I come from school.
I come from lights.
I come from books.
I come from home.
I am From...

I am from the smart and crazy.
I am from oversized t-shirts that I wear every night.
I am from sports to keep me active.
I am from the state of America where dreams come true.
I am from jokes that make my friends laugh.
I am from extreme love from friends and family.
I am from brown eyes and brown hair.
I am from colorful plates.
I am from summer.
I am from soccer to have fun.
I am from Amazon where I order stuff.
I am from gaming where I try hard to win.
Where I am From...

I am from New York City, but I am Haitian really. New York City is full of things to explore and I am still exploring. My parents came from Haiti because of my grandma. That's why I am here for a better life, and my parents have a better life. This is who I am, and I am here for a better life, and to explore. This is where I'm from.
Where am I from? I'm from bustling city streets, sirens wailing and music filling the air. I'm from tall buildings that scrape the sky with their high rooftops. I'm from crowded bike lanes and sudden pandemics. I'm from a great city with great people, and great places. New York City, where I was born, where I've always lived. I'm from endless trains and long ferry rides. I'm from one of 5 boroughs. Manhattan. From countless miles of stores, libraries, and museums. Apartments and parks. Subways and traffic jams. Where I'm from, everything has always been close by. I have had good times and bad ones. Fun times and boring ones. That's where I'm from. Where I belong.
By Pedro
I am from long intense basketball games and riding bike around the block. I am from playing video games with my brother and my mom telling me to walk the dog. I am from helping my mom with laundry and adventures in central park. I am from family game night and staying up late on Friday. I am from my mom telling me to clean my room and legendary sleepovers. I am from hanging out with my cousin and my brother buying me candy. I am from playing with my action figures and facetime with my friends. I am from carrying a heavy backpack and being late for school. I am from getting bundled up for the snow and playing in the Public Pool. I am from my mom’s rice and beans and taking the subway late at night. I am from Harlem, NY.
I'm from the land of the hot sun beaming down on your skin. I'm from the land of hurricanes, mom's and dad's, sister and brother. I'm from the Burger King, the McDonald's, the Wendy's, the Chick-fil-a, and the pizza hut. I'm from the land of lizards, the raccoon's, and the little flies that steal from you. I'm from little kids screaming to big kid gossiping. I'm from after school teachers telling me to stop doing the little kid's homework. I'm from the land of Disney world, music, and swearing. Now tell me; where are you from?
I am From...

Where I'm from I was raised in Manhattan West 125 Street. Where I'm from people asking for money down the street. Where I'm from people sleeping outside my building. Where I'm from eating chicken, rice, and lettuce. Where I'm from I play basketball and nintendo switch. Where I'm from eating cheetos. Where I'm from with family. Where I'm from enjoying fun. Where I'm from enjoying my life.
My name is Matthew.
I'm from the city. Its name is New York. Grew up playing games. The smell of pastelites cooking it just always had me looking. Where I'm from is a place of lots of noise, cars all around, sirens going crazy. People always lazy. I'm from the noise at 3am; it always make me angry. The place I live has tall buildings of any kind. So go that's just a little from where I'm from.
Where I’m from, I am from a place filled with lights. A place that never sleeps, I am from a neighborhood in the city. I am from parks streets and buildings, I am from where they filmed movies and the place tourists visit where buildings come from big to small and short to wide. I am from the place where buildings scrape the sky. The place where parks and playgrounds roam. I am from a planet to a country to a state to a city all the way to a child. I am from New York City.
Where I'm from, I was born in New York. Where I'm from, my home is my comfort zone where I eat tasty cereal on school mornings. I'm from a family that makes me feel at home and I'm from a family that has a brother who beats me up. Where I'm from, when you're back from school and finished with your homework, you're allowed to play on the computer for a few minutes. Loneliness, homesickness, and fear reminds me of my safe, cozy home, and getting a warm hug or some company, or holding a stuffed animal helps me feel better. Where I'm from, I think you will like it too.
I am from the never lasting party’s. From the delicious smell coming from the kitchen. From the neighbour that catches you up on all the gossip. From going to sleep late at night, watching movies. From going to the park after school lets out late in June. I am from love. I am from Harlem.
By Brielle

Brielle
Where I Am From...

I am from a place a place that I love from the beach were I am from is where I wish they had games where I'm from is my mom always make me feel like home. Where I am from is playing video games where I am from is always my mom's rice and beans where I am from is feeling calm when I am at home. Where I am from is playing basketball in my house.
Where I'm from, the streets are mean, and one person laughed at two cops praying to live. Where I'm from, to be grateful that you and your family live, and to always glaze but to not explore the unknown. To do risky things. Where I'm from were the con's out way the pros were the food is delicious, were I'm from when the white lion came to drope off the octicon's for slavery nyc is where I live.
By Justin
I am From...

I'm from where the cars are very loud and people are yelling to move. Where in from we used to play in the mud and when we were back inside we were all wet. I'm from where the food is sweet and spicy and the moon is smiling. I'm from the building that are tall and scary and going to the park every day.
I am from strong love and my home. I am from video games and my warm couch watching TV while mom or dad serve me breakfast. I am from homemade supper and my nice, comfortable bed. I am from a place where people help people. I am from a place where a lot of events happen. I am from me and my brother having little debates when mom and dad help us get past it. I am from my family, my land, my country, and most importantly, me feeling my best.

I am from NYC.
I'm from my iPad, under the blanket, with my headphones on. I'm from wishing my brother didn't have a volleyball; I'm (literally) from my mom, dad, (okay not literally anymore) my sister, my brother, and most importantly, my doggo Teddy. I'm from my blanket, my sister's and my figurines, iPad and TV. I'm from the loud noises of my lunch being made in the morning, and the coffee grinder scaring Teddy. (Well really everything scares Teddy so I guess I didn't need to put that), Teddy playing with my friend's dog Dean. I'm from ice cream, soup, mac and cheese, my mom's homemade burgers (worlds better than McDonald's, mind you), pizza, homemade salmon teriyaki, and chicken. I'm from being annoyed because of my brother's volleyball crashing into me. I'm from taking care of Teddy.

Thanks.
I'm connected to the park that has a big basketball court. I wish they will stop shooting. My mom and my grandma and my dad my pss and my bed the police car and rap and hip-hop candy and pizza happy and so so and sometime mad the movies and partying for a birthday and staying up in till three am.
Guyanese-American

where I'm from people are serious and give you an eye when you look at them. Where I'm from if you said something extremely mean, my family will hunt them down and beat them up. Where I'm from if you did really bad things at school the teacher won't hesitate to take a stick and beat you. Where I'm from it's hot and beautiful. And that's where I'm from.
I'm from where you hear police sirens because there was a shooting going around you. People play ping pong, darts, and laugh. I'm from where the sunset sets so beautifully and you can hear the birds calling their friends to your window. I'm from dogs barking from houses down the block when it hits dark all you hear is loud TVs playing at 50 volume. I'm from you wake up because you hear a loud alarm clock in your ear and scream at the top of your lungs. I'm from there's a nice breeze that comes through your window.
I'm from when you hear fire works you duck down on the floor and having fires next to the corner store. I'm from when there's rats in the subway they run away. I'm from when the school makes you feel welcome and at home and with family and friends. I'm from my neighborhood baby sit you until your mom come back from work. I'm from where you cook like it's your hobby. I'm from when you play with snow and it be freezing so bad I'm from playing guitars and flutes and piano. I'm from eating pizza every fridays at home and having movie nights.
I am from the room with stuffed plushies from bottles of milk and mashed bananas. I am from apartment 2A and building 356. I am from the aloe vera plant whose leaves are strong like my mom. I am from corn bread collard greens, from the Larkins and the Williams. I am from strength and resiliency and from dancing fun from New York to Florida. I am from Christian values. I am from African and American ancestors, from Juneteenth to my tenth birthday. I am from those moments. I am proud to be me.
I am from getting ice cream on a hot warm summer day from going camping mosquitos biting me. I am from going to movie theaters when fresh movies come out and from getting butter all over my hands. I am from snow storms that came a month late. I am from metal ill people screaming like there in pain whose never going to help them. I am from trees getting chopped off from pictureing. Where will the origine go? I am from getting woken up by my brother's butt snores. I am from eating warm hot waffles with drippy syrup getting all over me. I am eating my father's cupcakes without him knowing and celebrating each holiday without missing my farm from all these places from me growing up with them.
I am from the weekend trips to the mosque.
I am from happy days at the playground.
I am from the trees at Prospect Park.

I am from cartoon TV shows and Hollywood movies from Faisal and Khatun.
I am from those moments from the Prospect Park to Harlem.
About the Visiting Authors

Nikole Hannah-Jones is an award-winning investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine. Nikole got hooked on journalism when she joined her high school newspaper and began writing about students like her, who were bused across town as part of a voluntary school desegregation program.

Her heroes are the race beat reporters, such as Ida B. Wells, Ethel Payne, Simeon Booker and Claude Sitton, whose fearless coverage helped move this nation closer to its promise.

Prior to joining The New York Times, Nikole worked as an investigative reporter at ProPublica in New York City, where she spent three years chronicling the way official policy created and maintains segregation in housing and schools. Before that, she reported for the largest daily newspaper in the Pacific Northwest, The Oregonian in Portland, Ore., where she covered numerous beats, including demographics, the census and county government.

Nikole started her journalism career covering the majority-black Durham Public Schools for The News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C. During her three years there, she wrote extensively on issues of race, class, school resegregation and equity.

Nikole is a native Iowan, a child produced by the hopes of both the Great Migration and those who migrated from foreign shores. She has also lived in Indiana, Georgia, North Carolina and Oregon. Now she is Bed-Stuy fly in Brooklyn.
Renée Watson is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, educator, and community activist. Her young adult novel, Piecing Me Together received a Coretta Scott King Award and Newbery Honor. Her children’s picture books and novels for teens have received several awards and international recognition. She has given readings and lectures at many renowned places including the United Nations, the Library of Congress, and the U.S. Embassy in Japan and New Zealand. Her poetry and fiction centers on the experiences of Black girls and women, and explores themes of home, identity, and the intersections of race, class, and gender.

Her books include young adult novels, Love is a Revolution, Piecing Me Together, This Side of Home, and Watch Us Rise, co-written with Ellen Hagan. Her middle grade novels include the Ryan Hart series, (Ways to Make Sunshine and Ways to Grow Love, and coming soon, Ways To Share Joy), Some Places More Than Others, Betty Before X, co-authored with Ilyasah Shabazz, and What Momma Left Me. Her picture book, Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills received several honors including an NAACP Image Award nomination in children's literature.

Renée grew up in Portland, Oregon, and splits her time between Portland and New York City.
This book was written by the third, fourth and fifth graders at P.S. 125, the Ralph Bunche School, during their 2021-2022 school year. We love gym, music, work choice, and our community. Even with all of the challenges of COVID and all we have been through, we continue to try to be our best selves, to learn all we can, and to be a good friend to others. We help each other and work together as we learn!

For this project, we read the book *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, reflected on and studied Black History, wrote “I Am From” poems about ourselves and created unique artistic self-portraits. We learned from the book, from our studies leading up to and during Black History Month, had conversations with our families and community members and had the amazing opportunity to talk with and hear from Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson who visited our school! Through our art, conversations, and writing, we learned that it is important to know our history and also to take a stand for our future. We will change the world!
About Behind the Book

Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Common Core Learning Standards.
Next Generation Learning Standards Addressed

3W4: Create a response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience (e.g., poem, play, story, artwork, or other).

4W4: Create a poem, story, play, artwork, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience.

5W4: Create a poem, story, play, artwork, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience.

4R5: In literary texts, identify and analyze structural elements, using terms such as verse, rhythm, meter, characters, settings, dialogue, stage directions. (RL)

5R6: In literary texts, explain how a narrator’s or speaker’s point of view influences how events are described. (RL)
BtB empowers the next generation of readers and writers by nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in our students.

www.behindthebook.org