

I Am From...
By Mrs. Devora

I am from a mother who always sang, "You are My Sunshine" when she tucked me in at night. I am from knowing how much she loved me by the things she did for me.

I am from my parents divorcing when I was 5 years old. I am from living with my mom and not understanding why she would look sad sometimes. I am from not knowing that she used to cry in the shower so we wouldn't hear her tears.

I am from having to take responsibility for my younger sister because my mom worked long hours as a single parent. I am from not understanding how hard it must have been for my mom to make sure my sister and I had the things we needed. I am from not having a lot of money but still being rich with love!

I am from wearing hand-me-down clothes from my cousins and recognizing the scent of their house when I opened the bags of clothes. I am from meals at home but wanting McDonalds. I am from my mom telling us, "Maybe we'll have a little extra money next month."

I am from a childhood in the country, a life on the Yakama Reservation, where our only neighbors were my grandma and my cousins.

I am from a long dusty, dirt road named Loudon Lane, after my Grandpa Loudon. I am from thinking of the Grandpa I didn't ever know while walking down that dirt road everyday after school.

I am from stepping outside in the early morning hours and smelling wet grass and dirt. I am from hearing the sounds of Killdeer chirping, frogs croaking and coyotes howling.

I am from late night games of hide & seek with friends, with it being so dark outside that you couldn't see your hand waving in front of your face.

I am from midnight swims in the swimming pool with my cousins, trying to keep the splashes quiet so our Grandma Anne wouldn't holler, "Go to bed!" I am from hiding the scissors from my Grandma whenever she said, "Your bangs are getting too long."

I am from my growing up years with lots of love and laughter, with moments of joy and sadness. I am from always enjoying adventures and sometimes fearing change.

I am from all of my life experiences combined together, making
me...
Me.