Where I'm From
by Cynthia Shepherd
Clay County, Ky

I am from following the creek to wherever it took us and the 200 meter backstroke, From entire days spent on swing sets and sled rides down steep hills.

I am from picking flowers from the neighbor's yards and home made camps in the woods, From the Encyclopedia Britannica lined up in order and photos of children on ponies.

I am from Saturday morning cartoons and 10:30 mass on Sundays, From deviled eggs and salami sandwiches and red Kool Aid and Tang.

I am from my mother's charm bracelet and the middle finger that my Grandpa lost to a cannonball, From “Shape up or ship out” and “I'm going to send your food to the starving kids in China”.

I am from grandma's home made chili on Christmas Eve and pickled herring on New Year's, From anniversary parties in the church basement and birthday cakes shaped like cartoon characters.

I am from these things, swirling around me like leaves on the wind, and these things are me.