

## ***Bloom***

### ***I am From*** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from Yes to No.

I am from hi to hello.

I am from a hateful whisper to a killer whisper shout.

I am from girl's shallow eyes cutting in my pride.

I am from Lil' Wayne's words sticking like glue.

Love me or hate me I promise it won't break me.

I am from the only pictures you take around here are mug shots.

I am from my mother saying don't go off the block.

I am from me leaving the block.

I am from you're ugly, black, and fat.

I am from believing them.

I am from why and do you feel better about yourself?

I am from a father who left.

I am from Gospel paying in the day and Rap music at night.

I am from 'I don't care mom.'

I am from the strong words 'I Hate You!'

I am from a rapper sayin' I'm a Martian, help me.

I am from love, hate, raft, pain, and hope.

I am from my life.

I am from me still trying to feel better about myself.

I am from take a picture with your shirt off and your middle finger up, I will respect you.

I am from if I get my hair done people will hate.

I am from a fake smile that I show everyone.

I am from girls dancing on a pole just to make a dollar.

I am from a place I do not want to stay.

I am from a teardrop that turns into a whisper "Help Me!"

I am from people looking at me like I play the victim role.

I am from dark skinned girls wanting to be light skinned.

I am from since you don't like me, I'll change for you.

I am from 'I haven't seen Mikey. Mikey's DEAD! WHAT?'

I am from my mother crying over their son's murder.

I am from I don't know why my dad left.

I am from people singing *Miss Me A Little When I'm Gone*.

I am from no one Innocence.

I am from no happy or no good days.

I am from a land where girls have 9 inch heels with a 3 inch skirt.

I am from the words 'I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired.'

I am from where I cry myself to sleep.

I am from I don't want to change myself so you can like me.

I am from my sisters' words saying 'They're just jealous.'

I am from every argument that starts is about my father (but he's not even there)

I am from where crime never stops.

I am from where I lost half of my friends to a grave or a jail cell.

Despite all this, it is still good to smile, but when my niece does it burning sun.  
I am from a place that if you join in, maybe you won't die.  
I am from where times got so rough I had to live with my sister.  
I am from every time you walk outside you think it's going to be your last time walking.  
I am from everyone in my life telling me if I blend in maybe I won't get hurt.  
I am from where grown men try to talk to an 11 year old.  
I am from you're only good if you wear a 3 inch skirt.  
I am from a place where you step outside and you smell drugs and liquor.  
I am from where I cry at night because I hate where I live.  
This is where I am from.

***I am From*** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

This is my life

This is how I am

This is how it all began...

I am from North Philly

This is what they do when you were in trouble and had nobody to go to.

North Philly where mean and nasty people go.

You would think that Philly was dump, because the streets are dirty and trashy.

People used to say that Philly was nice “back then.”

People used to go to the barbershop and get a nice trim.

Even though crime and violence in Philly is bad enough,

I remember back then, times were hard and tough.

I like my life the way it is.

The way I want to be a kid.

I remember the good times me and my family had.

All the tough times too, but God is holding on to us and I’m glad.

I love where I’m from.

Where the places I’ve been, but I will always have love,

For people say that I am the cutest baby .

I remember when I used to get on people’s nerves,

Then people used to hate me.

I’m not troubled some say I’m good.

I’m glad I wasn’t back then in the dangerous hood.

Times get rough when you are not trying,

You need to face your fears and stop hiding.

I believe that Philadelphia can be a better place only if they give it a good taste.

I was the that good kid that got good grades because I was smart.

I was the one who had a heart.

Some didn’t believe in me

But I did because that’s all that matters to me and my family.

We have won victory for all and I hope it will never fall.

***I am From*** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from a family of many,  
A family I regret to have.  
I am from a family that has raised me,  
Not one but two  
That I love daily.  
That I wish to follow in their footsteps.  
I am from a mother and a father  
That encourage me to be the girl I am now.  
I am from a place I shouldn't have left called hometown  
I am from the past, present, and a horrible future  
I am from a place called Philly also known as Philadelphia,  
The home of death and trash.  
I am from a ghost town;  
Dirty roads, and crack heads all around me.  
I am from chipped street,  
Hard working people that  
Lie down dead  
I am from  
Kids that carry a gun  
Ready to cap someone as  
Parents worried  
About loved ones  
As they slowly die of cancer or aids.  
I am from  
Wagner middle school  
When I come to live and learn.  
I am from  
Three loving pets  
That I feed  
And care for so much  
I am from a  
Red bandana across a grown mans face  
Ready for a kill  
Attack to another person.  
I am from God and truly grateful.  
I am from a place  
Filled of child takers that  
Break loved ones' hearts.  
I am from Facebook and homework and Youtube.  
Life on your fingertips as we know it.  
I am from  
Kids in the E.R everyday.  
I am from  
Disappointed parents

Of their kids bad grades and foul behavior.

I am from a

Gloop of trash that

Lies on our ground forever

I am from a very bad city.

Where are you from?

***I am From*** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from walking past graffiti walls.

I am from my mothers love.

I am from an aggressive father.

I am from home to home.

I am from writing down my feelings.

I am from two different worlds, both similar in many ways.

I am from violent streets.

I am from more bad memories than good ones.

I am from two places where there is as much death as there is in war.

I am from one parent who is with me no matter what.

I am from another who abandoned me when I was 6.

I am from having to be tough and get over it.

I am from living life while it lasts.

I am from having supporting family and friends.

I am from coming across people trying to crush now and then.

I am from people who just don't understand.

I am from cleaning some grown mans mess, from protecting my brother like a bulletproof vest.

I am from having my stepbrother as my best friend.

I am from anger issues because of words that are stuck in my head.

I am from not being able to fit in.

I am from being picked because I'm smart.

I am from broken promises.

I am from having the courage to face my fears and stand up to him.

I am from worrying about what my father will say about anything I do.

I am from a life full of hardships and trials.

I am from people calling every name in the book.

I am from New York City and Philadelphia too and I have feelings just like you.

***I am From*** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from a caring loving family.

I am from a crude, loud, community.

I am from the city of brotherly love.

I am from West Oak Lane.

I am from a school that's 100 years old.

I am from teachers that care for me like their own son.

I am from Rittenhouse Square and Penn's landing.

I am from the Art Museum and Kelly Drive.

I am from friends that think they know what's best for me.

I am from the subway, always in the streets.

I am from New York, and the Statue of Liberty.

I am from music, J Davey to Kanye West.

I am from the future;

Technology keeps me running.

I am from 11 going on to 12.

I am from the home of the Philly cheese steak.

I am from the busy city.

***Me, Myself, and I*** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

As I grew up, when my mother struggled, she was alone. My mother felt like, “what is missing in my life?” As I grew up, I found out there were many things wrong with my life. I had a step dad, but he loved me like I was his child so before I was told, I didn’t really understand. When I was seven years old, my mom told me, “Your father left you.” I said, “What?” I was so confused. Now that I’m 11 years old, I know that my life is not normal. It’s actually reckless. I have the responsibility to be me and do me. After ever thing that has happened this October (especially my grandma’s death), I feel sorry for mymom and I wish I could do better.

Sometimes, there is just too much on my mind, and I’m happy that I live in a loving and caring family. I wish I was able to see my dad at least, but I don’t get to see him. Now, I see that my mother is happy and I’m cheerful. This is only some of my life. My: Me Myself, and I

**Cantarini**

***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from.... I don’t know where I am from.  
I am from dumfounded, blank faces, and whiteout friends.  
I am from, where the word “FAITH” is replaced with hate  
Where the loving houses are only burned down crisis.  
I am from where the light of day is only a dream because the light is afraid of the days that  
belong to dark.  
I am from “LOVE” ....wait, hold up  
Love is only in a fantasy  
My life is way under, below the low grounds of Christianity.  
I am from where a walk to the store is only a walk to hell, they have open doors.  
I am from Logan , valley, way past reality  
The word LIFE will have you shaking; i can tell your body is quaking  
I am from black, far away from whack  
I am from where dress down will have you shot to the ground.  
I am from where virginity is only in the past, because once you have laid too fast, you  
can’t turn around and walk back!  
I am from, a sister that tries and a brother that would rather hide,  
I am from a dad that drinks, when he should be paying for his daughter to think.  
I am from an upside down smile, a backward crowd  
I am from low lives and bye-byes, broke up fears and unwanted tears  
I am from where school is a place that you don’t want to face.  
I am from where hearts are broken and also a token, far away from were they have woken  
I am from where jumps are punks and punks are always flunks  
I am from where mace will always meet your face when you turn around to a fight that



might be your last night.  
I am from when the boys come everybody grabs their gun and runs.  
I am from a place that you shall never come.  
I am from unwanted faces  
I am from words that hurt and hurting from words  
I am from hand-me-down's, sometimes that can't be hand-me no more.  
I am from if you hustle and bustle you will always make the flow.  
I am from the only education you will get is from the uneducated  
I am NOT from a home, only a Nome , something close to be but not without my peeps.  
I am loyal only to the foil of my bones.  
I pray only to the voice above, but I lay to the voice of a scrambling love,  
I am from hope, but the more I spoke of this hope the more hope will not be spoken.  
I am from tricks that lead to lies and lies that lead to crimes  
Crimes that lead to your hands grinding behind the cold mental bars of a jail cell.  
I am from a place called hell!

## ***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from that little girl with the golden smile, forbidden from the outside, who escaped for a while, and never came back.

I am from a mom you don't know because looks don't show what goes on behind closed doors.

I'm from being called out of my name, being afraid of myself.

I am from a smile that will never show the pain overlooked by the ones that watched me grow.

So when I cry, I must lie: I bumped my head, I cracked my toe.

I am from holding back my secrets from my past, heated from the words thrown at me

Crying because my family is leaving me, because I don't live up to the expectations they set for me.

And if I don't complete the task set before me? More trouble poured on me?

Another chapter of my life? Something else to yell about.

I'm from boys wanting nothing more but to freak me, never keep me, and pass me on.

I'm from thinking so much I get a brainstorm.

I'm from that blue room with two windows, watching my skin glow from the sun seeping through my covers, absorbing my tears, watching the days pass hiding my fears.

I'm from very ballistic words, being confronted with absurd looks and voices saying, "Dumb it down!"

And, I'm from that million-dollar plan, trying to find a residence to infuse these thoughts of mine.

I'm from people that don't listen to me because I present myself too innocently.

I'm from reproduction and Death Row.

Being struck because I question god. Where was he when I needed him most? I would pray and no savior would come.

I'm from being abused, kicked out, and almost killed by my mother. Scared for my brother, because he's all I have.

Little girl with the vast eyes, accepting life and all its surprises.

I'm from going to sleep envisioning my dreams.

I'm from saying, "Be with me? Forever? No matter the weather?" If you need a friend, I'll be there indeed.

I'm just trying to be unforgettable for the right reason. I want people to remember Nadiyya Chioke!

Girl with the big smile, crazy style.

My problems have made me strong, brought me along, and have helped create me.

I am from family.

## ***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from a city. It's a big city yet a humble city. I'm from the city of Philadelphia. Born and raised here, a plant never up rooted from its soil. A city of diversity. A city where everyone is family, even the worst of enemies. The city of Brotherly Love.

A city that people might not like but can't hate.

A place where everyone has a face, has something to say, and nobody is the same.

Not the best city but defiantly not the worst, the city has its perks.  
New York's the big city, and D.C's the capital city, but Philadelphia is the birth city.  
Rich with history, this city never lost its roots. As if the past were still alive,  
America's roots trace all the way back here.  
Birth place of America, were the Declaration was signed.  
A city of beauty that never gets old, neither does its citizens.  
A sky line seen the world over, its impossible to forget the view.  
A city 2 million strong ready to stand for where we belong.  
Tourists come and go, never to return again, but when born in Philly you always come back  
home in the end.  
An unforgettable city.  
Once you've been there you always remember how to get there .  
From City Hall and all it's power, to the Library and its knowledge, the Art Museum and all its  
culture, to Fairmount park and all its beauty.  
A city through the average eyes,  
A gem through Philly's eyes.

## ***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from a place where people with big feet try to wear Vans.

I am from a place where you have your neighborhood crackhead wash cars.

I am from a place where everybody is trying to be a rapper.

I am from a place where people get killed over girls or jealousy.

I am from a place where people play 2K10 and online.

I am from a place where people don't fight they shoot.

I am from a place where my Dad smokes like Bob Marley did.

I am from a place where you can never trust people you just met.

I am from a place where girls get their weave pulled out.

I am from a place where your best meal is at your Grandma's house.

I am from a place where my Mom works 2 jobs.

I am from a place where the football field and basketball court is a place I call home.

I am from a place where you play Spades on your steps for 5 dollars with your partner.

I am from a place where you wake up 7 o'clock to go to travel to a football game or  
basketball game.

I am from a place where everything is sold at your corner store.

I am from a place where everybody and their Grandma got a Facebook page.

I am from a place where people blast Drake. I am from a place where you don't know who Lady Gaga is or where she came from. I am from a place where people say "I think I'm Big Meech and Larry Hoover." I am from a place where LeBron James and Kobe Bryant are the best players in the NBA.

***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from being hurt, happy & just plain mean all in a day.  
I am from darkness, laughter & late Friday night movies.  
I am from being called fat, beautiful & amazing.  
I am from being judged by how I look instead of who I am.  
I am from putting all my trust into GOD & knowing somehow, someday, everything's going to work out right.  
I am from confusion, procrastination & long dark nights.  
I am from jokes, making someone's day & having friends who care for me.  
I am from friendship, fun & trust.  
I am from life, all it's good things & all its downfalls.  
I am from music, art & creativity.  
I am from having respect, giving respect & trying to get what I want on my own.  
I am from a strong, loving & supportive family.  
I am from a crazy father, 2 adorable sisters & 1 over-protective mother.  
I am from shopping, cooking, cleaning & learning.  
I am from joy, pain & struggles.  
I am from thinking how to make happiness last.  
I am from originality, not fitting in & being different.  
I am from being labeled just from someone taking one look at me.  
I am from vacations, meeting new people & life long friends.  
I am from being confident, faithful & carefree.  
I am from a classroom full of drama, laughter, arguments & a group full of crazy different people .  
I am from me.  
I am from life.  
I am Patrice Ivry Hunter.

***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from happiness I am from a Southern Family I am from celebrating holidays I am from a house with my mother and two uncles I am from Dorset St.

I am from my mom taking me to her college I am from being raised by a young mom I am from my grandpa dying before I was even born I am from a family that's joyful and encouraging I am from success I am from talents of sports to instruments I am from writing raps and poetry I am from leadership and wisdom I am from helping my grandma with babysitting I am from the Williams family

I am from playing basketball I am from playing football I am from playing video games I am from youth

I am from hip-hop I am from giving and receiving presents I am from enjoying life I am from moving on I am from love

## ***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from grief to joy.  
From the sadness of being alone.  
From wanting my life to end .  
From needing to live.  
From needing my father around.  
From the music deep in my soul.  
Where beauty is the thing to have and money is the thing to want.  
Where my smiles brings happiness to most.  
Where I am tired of people's pity and fake smiles.  
Where I want to scream because people are holding back true feelings.  
Where people's greed gets the best of them.  
Where I get a little happy when my sister giggles.  
Where my parents divorce kind of made things better.  
Where my horrible immune system gets in the way of everything.  
Where the lovely scenes on a movie screen is my savior and not the big man upstairs.  
Where arguments with my mom don't seem like a big deal when I think of what we've  
    been through together.  
Where my mother tells me I'm beautiful but it doesn't really compute.  
Where I want peace in this world but it isn't gonna happen.  
Where flashbacks of a healthy grandmother only comes up when it is evident that's no  
    longer the case.  
Where I want to be free as the wind , loved like Christmas morning and needed like the air  
    we breath  
But I'm not always going to be and I have to except that and on that note ....  
I am from the city that never sleeps also known as the big apple .  
    I am from New York.

***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I'm from a place where you don't want vacation to end because when you go back you go back to the same old same old.

I'm from a place where people hide behind laughs to cover up the tears.

I'm from tears on my pillow and unanswered questions.

I'm from looking like everything is cool and you head your head high while all you want to do is shout.

I'm from past anger, present daydreams, and future hope.

I'm from Sunday dinners, block parties and chilling with my family.

I'm from hard working mothers and even harder neighborhoods.

I'm from brothers grinding hard trying to make a dollar to feed himself and his son.

I'm from little sisters dreaming big and reaching for the stars.

I'm from the city of Philly—the part they call Nicetown.



***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from a place where people are always on the streets. I am from a place where education is top priority. I am from a place that you have to do chores to get stuff you want or allowance. I am from a place that family is the most important thing you have. I am from a place where family gets together for every holiday.

I am from a family with a brother and a sister and a mother and father that are separated. I am from a place where siblings are very close. I am from a place where my brother and sister think they are superior because they are older. I am from a family where sports bind us together.

I am from a place where you must respect one another. I am from a place where failure is not an option. I am from a family that loves to laugh and have fun. I am from a family that is willing to help you to accomplish anything.

I am from a school that has good teachers. I am from a city in California called Fairfield. I am from a house where arguments are always happening. I am from a family where brothers are competitive. I am from a family that is fun caring and respectful of each other.

### ***I am From* – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

New York, a place where I called home. A place where there's true to fake Honesty to lying Ugly to pretty Skinny to fat Nappy hair to getting it done Ugly nails to cute nails A gorgeous life to a Ghetto one Little girl to too grown Scared of boys to liking them Quiet and lonely to popular and noisy Wal-Mart and Payless to Hollister and Footlocker Youngest child to second youngest Public transportation to a car of our own Unconfident girls to All That! 30 year old perverts to my brother's friends A family of 5 to a family of 7 Singing to acting A sad family to a Christian family Divorced parents to a stepmom and stepdad Jerry Spinelli to Ashley and JaQuavis Mickey Mouse and Elmo to Beyonce' and Nicki Minaj New York Yankees to Philadelphia Phillies Hating school to liking it Heart broken to not caring Smiling faces to sad ones I am from being me to being someone I thought I never would be.

**Clark**

### ***I, Me, Myself* – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

I, me, myself "I" used to fight "I" was cool for it "Me" was smart "Me" was angry "Myself" was a good person "Myself" was scared to show it But the new me, myself, and I is no fighter. She's smart. She, That girl, Is not scared of anything.

### ***Cunningham-***

#### ***I am From* - Anonymous**

I am from Killadelphia, Where your best friend might be leaving you next, Where you see Rest In Peace, Free Hakeem and things like that. There are more gunshots than fireworks on the 4th of July. Where teen pregnancies overrule graduations. Sons with no father role, So they tell a girl they love them and roll. So many stray cats, it's as if the streets had it's own pet shop. Where the crack heads travel in packs, And new addicts pop up like popcorn. I am from where the graduation rate drops like rain, Where it's easier to buy drugs than groceries. I am from where to have a baby, then take care of it Is the current plan. I am from where prison isn't new to many people. I am from where you see glass on the streets from a stolen car. I am from where you are trained to never lose a fight And if you do, keep going back until you win. I am from where smiling is a sign of weakness, Where the cops are busy day in and day out. I am from where picking up a blunt is considered better than picking up a book. Why can't Raheem read? For now this is where I call home, but this is not my destiny so I won't be here long.

***I am From*** - Anonymous

I am from Philly, Where the streets are full of violence. You can't trust really anyone. You need to live everyday like it's your last. I am from where you have to pick the right friends. Many think friends give you respect. You have to earn respect, but there is no respect in the streets. I am from a place where it's hard for children to get their education. Kids play in classrooms and don't take school seriously. I am from education being everything! Most other kids choose drugs before education. The only people you really have is your family and friends... Sometimes not even them. A lot of teenagers flash mob for fun! What fun is that? I am from Philly. Where there is a lot of trash on the ground. There are too many haters, and only a few true friends! When you walk around you see plenty of homeless people But this all could change. But that's not going to happen. The change starts with us! I am from where gunshots are normal. The police sirens and ambulance truck sounds are normal It's sad - no one jumps. Everybody is used to it! Where am I from? Insanity!!

***I am From*** - Anonymous

I am from Texas  
Where the winds never cool the summer heat.  
Winter doesn't last as it does in the North.  
I am from where highways are the roads to your destination.  
The beaches are a comfort sight.  
The waves are a sweet melody to my ears.  
I am from where the sun starts a new day.  
Violence is less in my hometown than where I live now in Philly.  
The morning wraps you in the fresh, warm breeze.  
I am from where shopping is popular.  
Everyday boys and girls dress as if they live in Southern California.  
I am from where they make the best Mexican food in all the earth.  
Dallas is like the hilly place of Beverly Hills.  
The water refreshes you, as if you are a new born baby.  
I am from Texas. All things are BIG in Texas!

***I am From*** - Anonymous

I am from a home that shows love, but is very stern. I'm from a place that makes sure things get done. From a long line of creativity. I'm from a father that was there much of my life, Has slowly parted from me to the point where I no longer see him at all. From a mom who's moved on in her life, Choosing a good man that's now her husband and my step father. From a stepfather who's very caring, But doesn't really think so much before he speaks. From a neglecting cousin not caring about my feelings. I am from friends who try to make me feel better about myself. I'm from confusion at what I see. From the careless insults of others on the way I look and appear.

I am from stories of my father who's been shot, stabbed and jumped. I'm from happily ever after stories told wrong, And the hope they can be told right. I'm from an area of lost hopes, wishes and dreams. From where young girls want to be grown women, being in relationships. From where boys try so hard to fit in, just to be cool. From where appearance counts for every thing.

I'm from knowing that in times of need and for worries I pray. I'm from the obstacles of life. From the difficulties and misunderstandings. I am from three sisters and four brothers. From the trustworthiness of my grandmother. From the ancestry of the natives, the Spanish and the Blacks. I'm from the cultures of the Latinos. I'm from where nothing is taken for granted. I am from where patience is needed.

I am from a family where whatever I get I'm satisfied. From my older brother and two older sisters who have and still show me tough love. I'm from a hometown where it seems like killing is a competition. From where suicide is the only way out to some. Where acceptance is wanted. I'm from where pregnancies surround me. From where peer pressure is all around you. I'm from a home where they love me.

## **Galbraith**

### ***I am From*** - Anonymous

I am T I am from a world were I have no freedom Where I have to sit and watch kids all the time Where "no" is a word you hear all day I am a girl who smiles a lot and sometimes don't know why I am a girl who got her heart hurt a lot I am from a place where a dream is just that a dream, nothing else I am from a world were teenage pregnancy comes too easily I am me, not anyone else I am a smile on the outside and a confused in the inside I am from a place were my mom and dad are not together and will never be again

I am from worried days I am from a place were your dad can't find love and you don't know who he will end up with Have you ever seen your dad get locked up and all you can do is cry and you won't see him again until next year? I have I am from a place were your father says he'll never leave you again after its over But your not sure you believe him but you just don't know I am from worried days I am from a place were your grandma is sick and weak and worry is everywhere

I am from a place were school is a fun place and you even smile Where your friends S, J, and T are there for you I am from a world of hope

I am from a place where you saw your mom get hurt a lot now she's engaged Now you don't know if he will hurt you but I have to trust him I am trusting Now they're married, is where I am from I am where your mom works so much and has to come in and cook I am from a place where people love you I am TDL and no one else.

***I am From*** -Anonymous

I am from Philadelphia a place called brotherly love which is anything but that, From a place where jealousy is the cause of most trouble, I am from a place where you have to watch your surroundings and belongings at all times, From a breath that can be my last, I am from a household with brat type kids I am from parents who don't understand me, I am from a father who I don't see often, From a best friend who has been beaten, And now wants to get pregnant to be kicked out her house, looking for a reason to leave, I am from nights of pain and days of shame,

I am from being hurt inside to being crushed I am from hugging my grand mom and making cookies with her, From holding her hand while she battles though cancer, And finally having to let go

I am from a place where women are as dangerous as men. From boy, girls, men, and women all make MISTAKES, being examples of human. I am from a place where boys get satisfied in a day From weeks later the girl is pregnant because, oh his satisfaction From the boy is ghost

I am from writing this and wanting to write my whole life down But am ashamed of what might be the outcome , I am from loving and caring and being strong and from I'm going to accomplish my goals ,

I am from Philadelphia a place called brotherly love in which is anything but that.

***I am From*** - Anonymous

I am from where people have no respect for each other. I am from people are addicts.

I am from a place where there's child abuse. I am from a place where people murder. I from a place where people litter. I am from where teens get so aggravated at their parents. I am from where I have to work hard to get a bright future. From doing my best in school to have a good life. I am from Senegal, a great place to live, But a bad idea to go to their schools. From where people in Senegal working hard to have shelter and food. I am from Mauritania where everybody gets to enjoy each other. I am from where we speak five languages in my house. I am from making good choices. I am from where you have to wear uniform to in school. From where making my family proud of me. I am from graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. I am from having nice and caring teachers. I am from a family that loves and cares about me. I am who I am, DT.

**C.W. Henry**

***I am From* – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

I am from.... I don't know where I am from.

I am from dumfounded, blank faces, and whiteout friends.

I am from, where the word "FAITH" is replaced with hate.

Where the loving houses are only burned down crisis.

I am from where the light of day is only a dream because the light is afraid of the days  
that belong to dark.

I am from "LOVE" ....wait, hold up,

Love is only in a fantasy.

My life is way under, below the low grounds of Christianity.

I am from where a walk to the store is only a walk to hell, they have open  
doors.

I am from Logan, Valley, way past reality.

The word LIFE will have you shaking; I can tell your body is quaking.

I am from black, far away from whack.

I am from where dress down will have you shot to the ground.

I am from where virginity is only in the past, because once you have laid too fast, you  
can't turn around and walk back!

I am from a sister that tries and a brother that would rather hide.

I am from a dad that drinks, when he should be paying for his daughter  
to think.

I am from an upside down smile, a backward crowd.

I am from low lifes and bye byes, broke up fears and unwanted tears.

I am from where school is a place that you don't want to face.

I am from where hearts are broken and also a token, far away from where  
they have woken.

I am from where jumps are punks and punks are always flunks

I am from where mace will always meet your face when you turn around  
to a fight that might be your last night.

I am from when the boys come everybody grabs their gun and runs.

I am from a place that you shall never come.

I am from unwanted faces.

I am from words that hurt and hurting from words.

I am from hand-me-down's, sometimes that can't be handed to me no more.

I am from if you hustle and bustle you will always make the flow.

I am from the only education you will get is from the uneducated.

I am NOT from a home, only a Nome, something close to me but not  
without my peeps.

I am loyal only to the foil of my bones.

I pray only to the voice above, but I lay to the voice of a scrambling love,

I am from hope, but the more I spoke of this hope the more hope will not  
be spoken.

I am from tricks that lead to lies and lies that lead to crimes

Crimes that lead to your hands grinding behind the cold mental bars of a



jail cell.  
I am from a place called hell!

### ***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from that little girl with the golden smile, forbidden from the outside, who escaped  
for a while, and never came back.

I am from a mom you don't know because looks don't show what goes on behind closed  
doors.

I'm from being called out of my name, being afraid of myself.

I am from a smile that will never show the pain overlooked by the ones that watched me  
grow.

So when I cry, I must lie: I bumped my head, I cracked my toe.

I am from holding back my secrets from my past, heated from the words thrown at me  
Crying because my family is leaving me, because I don't live up to the expectations they  
set for me.

And if I don't complete the task set before me? More trouble poured on me?

Another chapter of my life? Something else to yell about.

I'm from boys wanting nothing more but to freak me, never keep me, and pass me on.

I'm from thinking so much I get a brainstorm.

I'm from that blue room with two windows, watching my skin glow from the sun seeping  
through my covers, absorbing my tears, watching the days pass hiding my fears.

I'm from very ballistic words, being confronted with absurd looks and voices saying,  
"Dumb it down!"

And, I'm from that million-dollar plan, trying to find a residence to infuse these thoughts  
of mine.

I'm from people that don't listen to me because I present myself too innocently.

I'm from reproduction and Death Row.

Being struck because I question god. Where was he when I needed him most? I would  
pray and no savior would come.

I'm from being abused, kicked out, and left. Scared for my brother, because he's all I  
have.

Little girl with the vast eyes, accepting life and all its surprises.

I'm from going to sleep envisioning my dreams.

I'm from saying, "Be with me? Forever? No matter the weather?" If you need a friend,  
I'll be there indeed.

I'm just trying to be unforgettable for the right reason. I want people to remember  
Nadiyya Chioke!

Girl with the big smile, crazy style.

My problems have made me strong, brought me along, and have helped create me.

I am from family.

**Muc**

***I am From*** – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from my life being like a tornado. I am from smiles and hugs and everyone loves me. I am from a place close to my heart and always will be. I am from going outside with all my friends; we laugh and talk until the day comes to an end. I am from hearing basketballs being dribbled as soon as I step outside, The arguing of the boys who are playing football. I am from the smells of people's dinner blended in with the fresh air. I am from a world full of twists and turns; millions of lessons I've already learned. I am from true friends who always have my back, I can talk to them when I feel everything just came to an attack. I am from being like a princess, as pretty and lucky as can be, Surrounded by a family who loves and supports me. I am from beauty and brains, the one God chose. I am from heaven, an angel sent from above.

I am from a life that can be crazy sometimes, but I am perfectly fine because that crazy life is the one I can call mine.

***I am From*** – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from New York where the lights are bright, and will shine all night. We are never low, this is how New York goes. We come to party. It's going to be loud. New York is fun, we make the clouds. I am from the place where lights shine. I try and go there, from time to time.

I am fast like a car, maybe even a star. I run so fast I got back into the past. I am from my own little place and I always have a race. I am fast and furious on my planet. Some say I didn't even run it. This place is fast. Sometimes it never lasts. This is where it ends, time to say goodbye. Remember, you can do anything if you try.

***I am From*** – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from a place where babies run around with no shirt or pants, and they have white stuff on their face like a winter day.

I am from kids running with poles and sticks, chasing each other. A place where helicopters twist the wind like a tornado.

A place where police sirens are our music. I am from a place where you can taste the polluted air.

A place where you can see the evil in people's faces. I am from a place where kids younger than ten are on the corner, gambling like they're at the casino.

I am from a place where people go to school for profanity. A place where people act like ruthless pirates stealing people's most prized possessions.

I am from West Philly, a place where people act like apes in the jungle, A place where people don't know right from wrong.

***I am From*** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am from Pain to Happiness

I am from not forgiving my mom to giving her another chance to overcome

I am from Catholic to Public to Catholic School.

I am (from) being able to not take the pain to being able to take all the punches I get and make them to make a better person.

I am from Nicetown to Olney to Frankford

I am from knowing such a little amount of people to knowing a lot of people

I am from being hurt, sad, and emotional to being smiley and not really caring

I am a fighter and I will keep on fighting for my happiness

This is where I am from and who makes me who I am today.