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Where I'm from...

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Where I'm from . . .

Christine Clark

I am from *Underdog*, *Road Runner*, *Fat Albert*, *Peppermint Patty*, *Speed Racer*, *Jonny Quest*, *Gilligan's Island*, *Good Times*, *The Partridge Family*, *The Waltons*, and *The Brady Bunch*

I am from *Wild Kingdom* and *Jacques Cousteau*

I am from *The [VERY] Mod Squad* and the iconic Clarence Williams III

I am from "Best Girl Athlete" in nursery school, "I can go backwards on the monkey bars, can you?," playgrounds, jungle gyms, kickball, dodgeball, hide n' seek (hide and go *get*), capture the flag, tree-climbing and tree houses (that my Dad built) hopscotch, jacks, "I can pogo stick around the block, can you?," hoola hoops, and mud pies

I am from *Riot*, a poem by a child author whose name I cannot recall nor find, that I read by chance in a book in my elementary school library...it stirred my awakening consciousness

I am from *Why Are You Angry?* and *Christina's World*, Audre Lorde, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Gloria Anzaldúa, *Esta Puete*, *Mi Espalda*, Frida Kahlo, Ernie Barnes, the Graffiti Hall of Fame, and Diego Rivera

I am from curly hair ("I married your father so you would have curly hair") and hazel eyes, handstands in the hallway, roller skating on bumpy sidewalks, gymnastics in the backyard, ice skating across the street, Scrabble games in the basement, summer camp songs, swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, and archery, sailing and Chautauqua

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I am from friends, critical friends, and *not* friends... anymore... who have taught me so much

I am from a wild tongue and festive spirit

I am from the original *X-Files*, *Spawn*, *Sam and Twitch*, the original *Twin Peaks* (“yes people can too get stuck in doorknobs!”), and *Northern Exposure*—chaos and conspiracy theories, psychological intrigue, and the intellectually quirky

I am from thank you Shonda Rhimes for making primetime reflect multiculturalism as “the normal human condition”

I am from Gumba, Christabelle, “Christine Elise Clark get down here right now!,” Chrissie, Chris, Christie, Christine Clarque or Christine Jerine (no patriarchal surnames), Christine, and Crystal and Crystal Gayle

I am from the Jackson Five and *ABC*...

I am from blue jeans, groovy jackets, and Birkenstocks, patchouli, dangly earrings, embroidered clothes, and moccasins, sweatpants, t-shirts, and sneakers

I am from the “Mart of K” and the “Osco of Jewel,” street vendors, and haute couture

I am *not* from pantyhose or, better, I am from any place pantyhose are *not!* ... and yet I still wear them

I am from unicycles, tandem riders, ten speeds, and mountain bikes

I am from suburbia and city, mansions and projects, el barrio, da’ ‘hood, and the rez, outdoors in Colorado and New England mountains and lakes, Massachusetts snow and Nuevo México deserts, to finding an unlikely home in the city of Lost Vegans :-)

Yo soy de las Sandinistas y Nicaragua, las Indígenas y Guatemala, los Macheteros y Puerto Rico, Subcomandante Marcos, las Zapatistas y Chiapas México, de las oprimidas del mundo

Yo soy de “hablo Español como un idioma segunda pero como si fuera el idioma de mi alma y corazón, de mi cultura propia”

I am from the sociopolitical, the paradigmatic, the postmodern, and the reconstructivistic, critical consciousness, meta-analysis, the dialectical, and praxis, the ontological (the “to be”), the epistemological (the “to know”), the axiomatic (the “to know how to do the right thing”), the abstract and the everyday

I am from an iPhone, I have a relationship with my computer, and *not* social networking, but, yes, social media and digital revolution, especially its power to cultivate, inspire, and fan the flames of the fire in the streets in these times

I am from I don't Tweet, or even Black Tweet, and I don't post to "my FB page," (but may read your feed if someone else sends me a link through email or text)...

I am from when I want to catch up with my peoples I reach out by telephone (like the ones that used to have long ass cords), but would still rather see and touch those I love f2f

I am from Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Charles Lawrence, Mari Matsuda, Richard Delgado, Critical Race Theory, and Black, Womynist, Tribal and Lat Crit

I am from Fred Hampton, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, voter registration, the Young Lords, community health, the Black Panthers, school lunches, Assata Shakur, the Weather Underground, Bastards of the Party, the Deacons of Defense, and the next generations of Radical Brownies...Monarchs...

I am from John Brown Against the Klan and Free Puerto Rico

I am from I'm Pro-Black (not anti-white), its not just racism its anti-Blackness

I am from "to be a man, to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being...*by any means necessary!*"

I am from Black Lives Matter...Black is Beautiful...I Am Somebody...I Am a Man...Ain't I a Woman...get it...yet?

I am from #WoketheWorkLasVegas, Teachers for Social Justice...Las Vegas (TFSJLV), making educational change happen here, now

I am from CSIEME, See Me, it's good to be seen, Sawubona, and Critical and Restorative Studies (CRiTs)

I am from Occupy Wallstreet, Can I get a mic check?, Sanctuary movements, NoDAPL, and Welcome Home Oscar!

I am from Black Lives Matter...so, so, so very much...

I am from Miss Fannie, Fannie Robinson's boy, Ma, Pops, Chuck, and Douglas "Charles" Davis

I am from Gally, the very DefofDeaf (LOL!), terps, culturally diverse interpreters and culturally responsive interpreting, ASL, Black ASL, and unpacking whiteness in Deafhood

I am from stick shift SUV's, I love the WNBA, Motown, Carlos Santana, Salsa, Merengue, y Tejano, Johnny Cash, Ole Skool Rap, Hip Hop, Hip Hop, Hip Hop, the Gypsy Kings, A.R. Rahman and other world music

I am from *24 and Stanley*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Curious George*, *Charlotte's Web*, and Snoopy

I am from “What Time Is It? It’s Nation Time,” and “*Vieques Sí, Marina No,*” marches and protests, civil disobedience, subversive activities, and revolution

Yo soy de la izquierda, ándale pués...

I am from the color brown in all its shades

I am from trying to get pregnant, complete a pregnancy, and birth a healthy child . . . to there are other ways to plant seeds and help grow current and future generations

I am from [a] *Phenomenal Woman* and Maya Angelou, *The Color Purple* and Alice Walker, among so, so, so many others

I am from a radical reconceptualization of Christianity, liberation theology, the science in Islam, the K/Qabalas, Wicca, Pantheism, Gaia, Paganism, the laying on of hands, woman and earth-centered faith and deity, and the *possibility* of Star People

I am from Karl Marx, Betty Friedan, James Banks, Ché Guevara, Paulo Freire, and Mab Segrest—I’m a race traitor too

I am from Claudia Boatright, Antonio Callari, Jack Amariglio, Sean Flaherty, Bailey Jackson, John Bracey, and Sonia Nieto

I am from justice, or is it just us?

I am from social justice and multicultural education

I am from “I love to teach,” multicultural teacher education, and NAME

I am from MESA, Abriendo Caminos, #Love2TeachLV!, diversifying the teacher pipeline, restoring the diverse teacher ranks, and providing the scaffolding necessary for white teachers to go high, not low, no matter what others do/don’t do for students in high needs schools

I am from teaching to transgress and bell hooks, youth participatory action research, problem-posing and emergent pedagogy, community theatre/*teatro campesino* and Augusto Boal

I am from other people’s children are my children too and creating and sustaining spaces that are utterly inhospitable to deficit thinking

I am from activating, accessing, assessing, and adding (props to Dr. Walls!), and from cultural funds of knowledge and community cultural wealth in the teaching of all (re)new(ed) things

I am from layering into and out of all learning, situating all teaching in the learner’s experience, sharing the cognitive load, showing not telling, and the reciprocity of theory and practice

I am from the grassiest of grassy grassroots (*jmil gracias RosemaryQ!*), community organizing, and family engagement

I am from public education is worth fighting for...despite its flawed roots, unrealized imperfect promises, and persistent fidelity to hegemonic interest convergence

I am from a radical reimagination of schooling and schools, without walls, borders, time, and place

I am from fighting against neoliberalism's toxic impacts on all things communal, shared, collaborative, cooperative, and distributive

I am from fixed water and cardinal fire, earth and air, and the mutable

I am from buffalo and dinosaurs

Yo soy de "Qué Chévere" y "Órale Vata"

I am from a Lesbian/Queer-identified place, but the whole preferred pronouns thing doesn't work for the tomboy, tomgirl who is me, she, (cousin) it, they, and . . . well . . . maybe not he

I am from self-hatred and anorexia to loving myself as a woman with a fuller figure

I am from not speaking in high school to finding voice in college to exploring voice in grad school to refining voice for leadership for change today and tomorrow

I am from activist-scholar/scholar-activist

I am from *The Master's Tools Will Not Dismantle the Master's House*, but they can sure f@#* it up a lot

Yo soy de El Júnque, tropical breezes, sun-drenched and overcast skies

I am from Kung Fu, *Enter the Dragon*, Chen Style Tai Chi, and Yoga

I am from white privilege and anti-racism, being a formerly battered woman and on the receiving end of other forms of gendered violence, and engaging critical, sociopolitically-located multicultural education to disarm violence, mass incarceration, the prison/military/poverty industrial complex, and the school-to-prison/freedom-to-confinement pipeline

I am from an abolitionist mindset—emancipation, decarceration, *defronterizando*, and deschooling—focused on the disruption and dismantling of the global accumulation of capital

I am from the hidden imagery in El Prieto's pencil drawings—*The Wolf Within the Wolf Within*, rubber bands and art shows, pow-wows and Carlos Nakai

I am from *Deep Cover*, “the money don’t know where it came from,” and *Jurassic Park*, “nature finds a way” and “just because we can, doesn’t mean we should”

I am from Def Jam, Spoken Word, Slam Poetry, *The Puerto Rican Obituary*, the Nuyorican Poets Café, and *Down These Mean Streets*

Yo soy de realismo mágico, *Smoke Signals*, *The Man Facing Southeast*, *y Alsino y El Condór*

I am from I watched my father die and my mother died and I was not there

I am from family dysfunction, therapy, self talk

I am from I love(d) my parents, cats (Cicero and Colby), the best Halloween costumes and snow sculptures (that my Dad made), building blocks, matchbox cars, Lego, school carnivals, dunking booths, face painting, and cotton candy, school and church plays, singing in choirs, playing in a bell choir, strawberry festivals, and talent shows (dance and jump rope routines)

I am from public and private school, public speaking and term papers

I am from field hockey, distance running, and rugby

I am from “*Hijola!*” and “Child of Mine”

I am from men who love smart women, feign the roughneck image, and look like Idris Elba, Esai Morales, and, of course, you baby

I am from I am blown away by the genius of Luís Guzmán, Savion Glover, Selena Quintanilla, Bruce Lee, and on and on and on...

I am from vegetarianism, cappuccinos, and death by chocolate

I am from a mixed-race marriage, Brontasaurus booty, “that must be a white thing,” “you get Blacker everyday,” Fat (Phat) man and Fat (Phat) Booty

I am from lightening, Thunder and rain, Jazz, rhythm, and Blues, *la décima* and soul, and big muddy dogs

I am from Manuela and Teresa, Cuba and Ché, Jamaila and Vívian, Xelajú Imani, DaVinci and Brooklyn, and, *pahleese*, can-I-get-just-a-little-bit-closer Diego

I am from fluvial geology and volcanology, meandering streams and lava flows

Yo soy de San Martín de Porres y La Virgen de Guadalupe, *Espirismo y Santería*, Tarot and Numerology, Astrology and Witchcraft

I am from tough and mean to it’s okay to be something else, *gracias a* Roberto Rodríguez, Patrisia González, and the wisdom of elders

I am from anger and passion, giving and having dignity, and struggle to become more fully human

I am from the heart and soul of my life partner and his amazing patience with and love for me, "I love you 'endless' too"

I am from Tyrone Marcellus Robinson whom I have known and loved in every single one of my past lives, whom I adore in this one, and whom I will embrace *con mi cuerpo, corazón, mente, alma, y espíritu* in every single life I have yet to begin with him

I am from love and laughter thanks to you *Amor Mio*