

MY PEOPLE. MY HOPE

Original Poem by Theo Edmonds. Inspired by George Ella Lyon's "Where I'm From"

My people are watery eyes, rocking chairs, and Save-a-Lot.

My people remember how greens smelled cooking on Granny's autumn yellow Frigidaire stove.

My people are hand-sewn quilts and gravestones holding memories under weather-beaten, mass-produced plastic flowers surrounded by a chain link fence on a hill.

My people are Puncheon Creek and Shoulder Blade, where creeks smell slightly of sulphur and melon.

My people are Ada and Willie.

My people taught me that the reason we go to the garden is to be near the rose... not to curse the thorn.

My people sing When the Role is Called Up Yonder and say "Bless your little heart"

My people struggle.

My people are artists, storytellers, innovators, school teachers, farmers, coal miners and pioneers who "get er done"

My people still seek the living in life, even thru the sad. My people are tired.

My people's stories were stolen, our culture corrupted, and our mountains robbed.

My people are sometimes invisible.

I see you my people.

Together, we shall let go the stories that imprison our hearts.

My hope is you. My people. One spirit. Connected. Inseparable.

We are worthy. Worthy of everything.

MY PEOPLE. MY HOPE – WORKSHEET

(Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary)

FIRST NAME: _____ (Optional) AGE: _____

My people are _____ (physical trait of people in your family) , _____ (an object in your home that reminds you of loved ones), and _____ (where you buy food or eat).

My people remember how _____ (a particular food) smelled when _____ (someone you love was making it for you or you were making it for them). Describe what the stove looked like or how the kitchen décor looked)

My people are _____ (something hand made that is meaningful to you) and _____ (describe a place that holds memories).

My people are _____ (a place in Breathitt County you love) and _____ (another Breathitt County place you love)where _____ (describe how those places look, smell, or feel).

My people are _____ (friend or family member living) and _____ (friend of family member who is passed on)

My people taught me that _____ (a lesson you learned from a friend or family member)

My people sing _____ (name a song) and say _____ (name a phrase you often hear people in your life say)

My people _____ (name a verb)

My people are _____, _____, _____ (name three occupations that your friends or family do for a living or a pastime) who _____ (name a phrase that mountain people say.)

My people still _____ (name something that shows how Breathitt County people are strong and resilient). My people are _____ (name an adjective or feeling).

My people's stories were stolen, our culture corrupted, and our mountains robbed.

My people have been _____. (an adjective like "invisible").

I see you my people.

Together, we shall let go the stories that imprison our hearts.

My hope is you. My people. One spirit. Connected. Inseparable.

We are worthy. Worthy of everything.