

***taken from* “Random Autobiography” by Mary Ann Larson**

I was the expected
Valentine
that arrived
before I learned early
that red socks
are warmest.
I've held a tarantula
in my hand
and felt the chill,
the tiny hairs.
Panned for gold
at Garnet, Montana,
a ghost town.
No luck.
I've heard thunder
in the depths
of a snowstorm.
I lost my
first love
and my pet
canary, Pierre,
all in one day.
I've held
a stunned finch
in my hand,
regaining his senses
after flying into the front window.

I once kissed
an anarchist.
I once suffered
pneumonia.
And only once
ate a whole
raw onion
on a dare.

Twice, I lost
my baby bracelet,
dainty gold chain,
miniature pearls and
little heart of gold.
And twice
I've driven through
Gilroy, California,
the garlic capital
of the world.
We hopscotched
until chalk lines
scuffed and faded.
I have landed
more big fish
that most men
can say
got away.

Just a toddler,
I toddled
toward a cliff
but was saved by
ruffled panties
that Dad grabbed.
Aurora Borealis
has played for me
more often than
I deserve.
I have shopped
at K Mart.
My silver baby cup
is all banged up.
I am
licensed to practice.

More Examples...

Random Autobiography

I have been to India
where I saw wild monkeys
climb big trees.

I have been to Yellowstone
where I saw buffalo follow
my footsteps.

I have touched dogs that bite
and snakes that kill.

I have lost trust and respect.
I have lost friends and family.
I have found hope and dreams.
I have found knowledge and wisdom.

I have seen the sun set from
Bull Mountain in Montana.
I was the expected killer
in the game of Clue.

I've held a first born baby
in my hands,
then I gave her back to my sister.

I've heard rock and rap,
oldies and new age.
I've been mean to my friends,
and then said, "I'm sorry."

I saw myself with a gun,
but didn't like the control,
and put it down.

I once gave advice to a friend
but got yelled at because
it wasn't what she wanted to hear.

I've driven through a rainstorm
with my mother,
sick,
in the passenger seat.

Twice I lost my house keys,
only I found them hours later.

And only once have I been in love,
but now it's over,
and I'm not sure if I even was.
-Greg B.

Random Autobiography

When we were little,
my twin let me suck his thumb
after we fought.

I have pulled on the smooth udders
of a cow
and ripped out
the insides of chicken,
still warm.

I've eaten Al's french fries
in Battery Park, Vermont
from dumpsters in Washington and
Oregon,
and one fine restaurant
with my father in Connecticut.

I've helped my friends
who were blinded from pepper spray.
I once jumped off
a 40 foot cliff
and broke veins in my arms.

I spent a whole day yelling
and marching in Seattle.

I've cut the umbilical cord
of a newborn pig
and broken into a city-owned building.
I've shopped at my mother's store.

I lost the handkerchief
my twin gave me
that shielded me from tear gas
and helped me when I was sick.

I opened my eyes at sunrise
and stepped off the side of a cliff
in a harness.

I swerved in a plane
my dad flew on top of fireworks.

I've been given napkin
love stories.

I'm fifteen.

-Emma

Types of opening lines from Random Autobiography examples

CRUDDY 1st DRAFT: Using the opening lines from examples and details from your lists, write your own random autobiography poem.