Lineage Prompt:

Read Etheridge Knight "The Idea of Ancestry"

Write out your definitions of: ancestry, lineage and family.

— map out your family tree
— begin with you: who are you, where are you, how do you and where do you place yourself
— say so much. as much as you can. delete later if you must.

— move back in time
— who are your parents. where are they. What do they look like? Like you? Or?
— if you cannot answer this question, decide whether you are going to tell us (the poem) why you cannot answer this question (some *truth*) or provide a fiction of your selection.
— How will we ever know

— move back some more
— who are your grandparents. where are they. What do they look like? What do you remember? How much do you remember and why?
— if you cannot answer this question, decide whether you are going to tell us (the poem) why you cannot answer this question (some *truth*) or provide a fiction of your selection: How will we ever know

— move back in time more
— who are your grandparents parents. where are they. What do they look like? What do you know? — how do you know, what you know? (who told you, when, why?)
— if you cannot answer this question, do you know why you cannot answer this question? Who broke with the lineage? Why?
— make things up along the way if you want, or investigate if you want

— can you move sideways (*extended* family, cousins, siblings)
— Where are they. What do they look like? What do you know?
— What are your relationships like?
— Are these people strangers (extended) or are they something else? How did it become this way — if you cannot answer this question, decide whether you are going to tell us (the poem) why you cannot answer this questions (some *truth*) or provide a fiction of your selection.

— who do you most resemble? Why? How do you know this? Why do you believe this?

— Define Ancestry

— Define Family

— tell us one thing that this tree cannot tell us about you