

Sharing Family Stories

Note to adults:

This resource is meant to be a simple way to encourage families to share their everyday stories that might otherwise be lost as grandparents grow older and children grow up. We hope it can be a springboard that lets children in your life learn to ask meaningful questions about topics they find interesting, to learn about life in earlier times.

Feel free to expand on these beginning questions, adding any others that prompt good conversations. Obviously, many of these topics could be addressed at any age level. Just be sure to tailor your stories to your listeners' level of understanding.

If you want to extend the experience, consider getting creative with your stories. Draw pictures that illustrate the story and make a book, for example.

While we created this resource with grandparents and grandchildren in mind, it can be useful for anyone of any age to share their stories with another person.

Suggested stories to tell preschool and early elementary-aged children:

What kind of pets did you have when you were growing up?

How did you celebrate your birthdays?

Did you watch TV? What shows were your favorites?

Did you like your teacher?

What were your favorite foods? What happened if you didn't like a food?

If you got sick, who took care of you? How did they make you feel better?

Suggestions for middle school-junior high school students:

Were you ever bullied, and what did you do about it?

What did you do for fun when you were growing up?

How far have you traveled? Why did you pick that place?

What did your parents do to make a living? How did that affect your home life?

Did you or a family member ever have a serious illness? How did your family cope?

Did you have chores as a child? What were they?

Suggestions for high school students:

How did you learn to drive? Who taught you? What kind of car did you drive?

When did you get your first job? What did you do? Did it lead to your next job or career?

How did you choose your career?

How did you meet someone to date? How did you meet your spouse?

What kinds of obstacles got in the way of your dreams? How did you overcome them?

Additional resources:

StoryCorps: <https://storycorps.org/participate/>

FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/preserve-stories-grandparents-expert-tips/>

StoryWorth: <https://www.storyworth.com/questions>