

## Prompts for Personal or Family Stories

Use these story prompts to help you remember your own stories. You can also use them to interview relatives or any older folks to get interesting family stories to learn about what life was like before you were around. Tell about:

### Places:

- Your favorite place in the world
- When you moved to a new place
- Sharing a bedroom (or bed) with a sibling
- Visiting relatives who live in a distant place, or having them visit you
- A time when you went to camp or camped with your family
- A haunted house
- A secret hiding place
- A favorite room
- A church basement
- A barn
- A tree house
- A backyard or garden
- An attic or garage
- A basement
- Grandma's house
- A vacation spot
- An amusement park
- A ball field or park
- A parade
- A zoo
- The woods
- A cemetery
- A pond or river
- A movie theater
- Railroad tracks
- A swimming hole or pool
- A front porch
- A school bus
- A playground
- A subway
- An empty lot
- A supermarket
- A library
- A sound that brings to mind a particular place

### Problems or Crises:

- The worst trouble you ever got into
- When you got lost
- When you lost something
- When you got hurt
- How you got a scar
- When you were sick
- When you or someone you know got a bad haircut
- Something you always have to do that you really don't like to do
- Something that you have not been able to do yet but would really like to, and why
- When you cooked something that didn't come out as planned
- When you played a practical joke on someone or had one played on you
- A bad storm or other weather disaster you experienced
- When you broke something that belonged to somebody else
- A bad mistake you made

### Emotions:

- A time when you were scared
- A time when you laughed so hard you almost cried
- Something funny or unusual you did when you were little
- Something funny one of your relatives did (be sure you have permission to share such a story)
- Your most embarrassing moment
- Your pet peeves—the things that make you most upset
- Any vivid dreams or nightmares you've had

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**People:**

- How you got your name
- How you got a nickname
- Your family (last) name
- A person you will never forget
- Your best friend
- A person you would like to be like
- An interesting or unusual neighbor
- The pros and cons of having (or not having) brothers/sisters
- Your favorite aunt, uncle, friend, or grandparent
- Funny or unusual sayings of people you know
- How your parents or grandparents met

**Events:**

- What happened on the day you were born
- Your first day of school
- Learning to swim or ride a bike
- Chores you have (had) to do
- A time you were brave or witnessed an act of bravery
- A family reunion
- How your family celebrates special occasions such as holidays—what kinds of foods they eat, songs they sing, etc.
- A surprise party for you or someone you know
- Any important historical events that have taken place during your lifetime
- Any special activities you do (did) in the summer? fall? winter? spring?

**Pets/Objects:**

- A favorite pet you no longer have
- An unusual or important gift you gave or received (especially one that was homemade)
- Your favorite toy or game
- Something funny your pet once did, or does all the time
- Your favorite and least favorite foods
- Your favorite article of clothing
- Being forced to wear clothes you didn't like
- A time when you got all dressed up to go somewhere
- Any items you like to collect, and why
- A pair of shoes or boots

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