A CHRISTMAS GIFT

One afternoon of your stories

For _____

THE FIRST QUESTION

Think of Christmas when you were about seven. Who was in the room?

Nineteen more are in the booklet. Any of them can be skipped.

This card is good for one afternoon in January.

I will bring twenty questions and a phone to record on. You bring the stories. There is nothing to write and nothing to prepare. We stop whenever you like, and the recording stays in the family.

Day _____

Time _____

Where _____

With love, _____

YOURTALE

The questions for our afternoon are in the booklet that came with this card.

Free printable from Yourtale · yourtale.art/en/blog/printable-life-story-gift-card

Twenty questions for one afternoon

For you, the one who gave the card. Read this page before the day, and bring the booklet and a charged phone.

Before you press record

1. Sit at the corner of a table, not across it, in a room with the television off.
2. Turn on Do Not Disturb, then open the voice recorder: Voice Memos on an iPhone, or the recorder app that came with an Android phone.
3. Start recording before the first question, and say the date and both your names.
4. Put the phone between you, screen up, and leave it alone.

While you talk

1. Ask one question, then wait. A silence usually means they are remembering.
2. When an answer is short, use a follow-up: “What happened next?” “Who else was there?” “What did it look like?”
3. Skip any question that does not fit. The order is only a suggestion.
4. Stop after about an hour, while it is still going well.

Afterwards

1. Save the file the same day, named with the date and their name, and copy it somewhere other than the phone.
2. Book the next afternoon before you leave, if you both want one.

Folding the card

Print page 1 on one side of the sheet. Fold it in half across the middle with the printing outside, so the top half goes behind the bottom half. Then fold it in half again so the rectangles are on the front.

Your own questions for the day

Where you started

1 Think of Christmas when you were about seven. Who was in the room? ☐

Note

2 Walk me through the front door of the house you grew up in. What do you see first? ☐

Note

3 What were you allowed to do on your own as a child that nobody would allow now? ☐

Note

4 Which grown-up outside the family did you like best when you were small? ☐

Note

5 What did you get in trouble for most often? ☐

Note

Out into the world

6 What did you do with the first money you ever earned? ☐

Note

7 What did the first place you lived away from home look like inside? ☐

Note

8 What was an ordinary Saturday like when you were twenty-five? ☐

Note

9 What were you good at in your work that nobody gave you credit for? ☐

Note

10 Which piece of news do you remember exactly where you were when you heard it? ☐

Note

Notes

The people

11 Tell me about the day you met the person you married, or the person who mattered most. ☐

Note _____

12 What was your mother like on an ordinary weekday, when nobody was visiting? ☐

Note _____

13 What do you do that you got from your father? ☐

Note _____

14 What do you remember about the day your first child was born? ☐

Note _____

15 Who was your closest friend when you were thirty? ☐

Note _____

Looking back

16 If you could live one year of your life again, which year would it be? ☐

Note _____

17 Which decision of yours turned out better than anyone expected? ☐

Note _____

18 What did you worry about that turned out not to matter? ☐

Note _____

19 What have you changed your mind about? ☐

Note _____

20 What should a great-grandchild know about you that they would never guess? ☐

Note _____

Notes