

#### **About Memories to Share:**

#### How does your family share its stories? Will they be lost?

In 2013, my grandmother passed away at 90 years of age. She was an amazing women who lit up a room and brought joy to everyone in it. Really. She was funny and frank and loving and strong. I am blessed to have had her as my grandmother, my Mammy, and I was amazingly blessed to have had her in my life for so many years.

A few months before she passed, she returned a book to me which I gave her about 14 years prior. It was a book of 365 questions about her life, one question per day for a year, that I asked her to answer and return. Some friends of mine and I created the book of questions for loved ones to fill out for us. It was a gift for them to relive those stories and a gift for us to know them.

My grandmother did not complete the entire book (365 is a LOT of questions!) The questions she did answer, though, have brought me so much joy and insight. They are yet another blessing to me, to my mom (her daughter), to my son, and to others who have leafed through the pages and read about her rollerskating adventures in a neighbor's garage and driveway, the times she and my grandfather would sit in the outhouse and talk together, what it was like growing up in a small town, and her general outlook on life.

I want you to have this gift and I want to share this gift with my family someday when I am gone.

I have created a new list of questions which I am sharing with you in this ebook and blog series Memories to Share.

Rather than offer a question a day, I am offering 52 questions, or a question a week, for you or a loved one to consider and record. Print these pages, slide the cover page into a binder, hole-punch the rest of the pages for the binder and answer a copy of the questions yourself, in your own handwriting, and give a blank copy of this to your loved ones to do the same. I have included several blank questions pages at the end so that you can add your own questions, if you'd like.

You can also access these questions on my blog, <u>MomsToolbox.com</u>. You and your loved ones can <u>subscribe to MomsToolbox</u> to have these questions delivered to your email inbox each Sunday so you can print them weekly and drop them into a binder.

**Please don't feel like these memories can only be shared by writing.** Consider bringing the questions up with your family at dinner or another time to help share your stories, hear other stories, and get everyone's perspectives. You might be surprised by what you learn that way.

I hope Memories to Share blesses you as it has already blessed me...and that it guides you in capturing and sharing your families stories and memories for generations to come.

Amy Gross

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# Memories to share

Did you make New Year's resolutions as a child? As an adult? Are there any you remember in particular?

Tell about an experience with a grandparent. How many of your grandparents did you know well?

Did you have any siblings? Where did you fit in terms of birth order? Share a little about each one.



Tell about a favorite or memorable winter coat, scarf, or hat.

# Memories to share

If married, how did you meet your spouse? Tell how things progressed from meeting to marriage. How did you know your spouse was the one?



What do you remember most about your wedding day?



Share your engagement story.

Share about your honeymoon. Where did you go? How long was it? Who planned it?



Did you go to college? Why or why not?



What was your first job? How much did you make?

Tell about a job you had which you would recommend to someone else. Tell about one that you wouldn't recommend.



Tell about a memory involving roller skates or roller blades.



Tell about a memorable neighbor from your childhood.



How did your family celebrate Easter?





Did you ever have an imaginary friend? If so, tell about that.



What were some of your favorite foods as a child?



What foods did you not like as a child that you enjoy as an adult?

# Memories to share

Did you go to your high school prom or other formal dance? What did you wear? Did you go with a date? Share about it.



What was/is your mom like? Share about some good advice or a special gift your mom gave you.

How did your family celebrate children's birthdays? Tell about a favorite birthday party that you attended or that was for you.

Did you graduate from high school? What year? How many were in your graduating class? Are you in touch with any high school friends today?

What were summers like growing up? If you are a mom, what different perspectives do you have on summer as a mom compared to your experiences as a child?



Did you travel with your family? If so, tell about a favorite family vacation.

Do you have a passport? When did you get your first one? If not, where would you visit if you had one?



Did you go to summer camp? If so, share a memory from camp. Did you ever get homesick?

## Memories to share

What was/is your dad like? Share about some good advice or a special gift your father gave you.



Tell about a favorite 4th of July celebration.



When did you learn how to swim? Did you swim often as a child?

Did your family go camping? If so, share a memory from camping. What food did you eat? Did you sleep in a tent? What activities did you do?



Did your family play car games on road trips? If so, tell about them.



Tell about a childhood best friend. What did you like to do together?



Did your family have any back to school or first day of school traditions? Tell about them.



What types of things did you like to do with your friends in middle school?



Tell about a best friend from middle school.



Tell about a bicycle ride or bicycle you had.

Share a childhood memory about a death that affected you.



Tell about a favorite outfit you wore to school.



Who were some of your favorite teachers? Why were they your favorites?

Did you do any extracurricular activities in high school? Tell about them. Why did you do them? What did you learn from them?



Tell about one "treasure" you own which represents an important memory.

Tell about religion in your childhood. Is religion important to you now? Why? If so, when did it become important?

How did your family celebrate Halloween? If you carved pumpkins, who did the carving? Describe a favorite Halloween costume of yours.

Share about learning how to drive a car or teaching someone else how to drive.



What were some of your favorite books to read as a child?



Describe your military experience or that of someone in your family.

Have you ever been in a parade? Tell about it. Are there any parades you especially remember attending?

What did your family typically eat for Thanksgiving dinner when you were a child? What were some of your favorite things to eat and do at Thanksgiving?



Did you bake or cook with anyone in your family? What foods did you make?



Tell about a few favorite family recipes. Include the recipes if you can.



Did Santa Claus visit your house when you were a child? If so, what are some of your memories surrounding him?



Tell about Christmas morning when you were a child.



What are some favorite Christmas traditions that your family observed?









