

Questions to Ask Your Parents *About Their Life*

Six questions that start with a scene instead of a fact. Ask one per visit, then follow the answer with **Take me there** · **Who else was there?** · **What did that change?**

1	START WITH A PLACE What's the earliest thing you remember — and where were you standing?	Asked on
2	START WITH A PERSON Who was the first grown-up outside the family who believed in you?	Asked on
3	START WITH A FIRST What do you remember about the first time you saw each other?	Asked on
4	START WITH A SENSE What did your mother's kitchen smell like?	Asked on
5	START WITH AN ORDINARY DAY Describe a perfectly ordinary day you'd love to live again.	Asked on
6	START WITH WHAT'S UNSAID What do you want your grandchildren to know about you that they'd never guess?	Asked on

THE METHOD

The three follow-ups *that work on any answer*

“Take me there.”

What did it look like? What could you hear? What time of year was it? Once they’re standing in the room, the scene comes back.

“Who else was there?”

Every story has people the family has never heard of. Get their names — and how to spell them.

“What did that change?”

Ask what came after. This is where a memory becomes a turning point.

Then stop talking. Count to five before you fill the silence.

Turn a fact question *into a story question*

INSTEAD OF	ASK
Where did you grow up?	Walk me through the front door of the house you grew up in.
What did your father do for a living?	What did your father look like when he came home from work?
Were you happy as a kid?	Tell me about one summer from when you were ten.
Did you serve in the military?	What’s something about your service nobody has ever asked you?

Before you press *record*

- ☐ Phone on Do Not Disturb, battery charged
- ☐ Phone on a folded napkin, an arm’s length away
- ☐ TV off, nothing humming in the room
- ☐ A few old photographs on the table
- ☐ Say the date and who’s talking at the start
- ☐ One question, about an hour, one-on-one

Five mistakes *to avoid*

Correcting them mid-story. Check the year later.

Two questions at once. Ask one, then wait.

Telling your version first. Let them tell it fresh.

Waiting for a big occasion. An ordinary afternoon works best.

Leaving it on the phone. Name it, date it, back it up today.

When you want the whole story, *we’ll ask the questions.*

Legacy Storybook records your parent’s life in their own words — three to six hours of guided conversation — and turns it into a hardcover book written in their voice.

Take the First Step

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