YOU
AND THE
OUTSIDE WORLD

"All adventures, especially into new territory, are scary."
Sally Ride

How were you involved in the outside world when you were younger, the world away from your family? Write about school and activities you were involved in during your earlier school years.

Getting started

Choose from the questions below to help you write:

1. Describe the schools you attended. What was each like? How did you feel about school? What were your favorite subjects? What school programs do you remember? What teachers do you remember most, and why?

2. Did you ride the bus, walk to school or get a ride from your parents? What memories do you have about getting to school?

3. What do you remember about lunch at school? Did you pack your lunch or eat school lunch? If you packed your lunch, what kind of lunchbox did you have?

4. What were your favorite school activities? Did you ever enjoy being in a play, a spelling bee, a concert, a poster contest, student council, etc.? Explain.

5. How did you spend your free time after school and on weekends? What did you do for fun? What games did you play? Did you have any hobbies? What were they?

6. Where did you live when you were little – on a farm, in a town, in a city? Describe your neighborhood and some of your neighborhood activities. How did you get around? (You might even want to draw a map of your neighborhood and the important places in it.)


8. Were you involved in organized sports, either through school or other organizations? What did you like about sports? What did you dislike about them? Did you have a favorite coach? Why was he or she your favorite? What was your favorite sport?

9. Did you take lessons of any kind – music lessons, dance lessons, karate lessons, acting lessons, etc.? How did you feel about the lessons? What did you like? What did you dislike?
Every childhood includes special times, whether they are holidays, family celebrations or other occasions. Write about the special times in your life, past and present.

**Getting started**

Choose from the questions below to help you write:

1. What was the best gift you ever received when you were young? What was the best gift you ever gave?

2. What are some of your family traditions? For example, do you always cut your own Christmas tree, go to Grandma’s for Thanksgiving dinner, camp in the mountains on Memorial Day weekend or attend community festivals like Cinco de Mayo, Chinese New Year’s or Oktoberfest? Is there a particular holiday you remember especially well?

3. What birthday do you remember best? Why?

4. Does your family take vacations together? If so, where have you gone? How did you get there? What was the most fun? What was not fun?

5. What do you like to do on holidays or special occasions, like the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, etc.

6. Were you ever in a wedding? Whose was it? What did you do? What did you wear?

7. What “firsts” do you remember so far in your life — first airplane ride, first communion, first time you rode a bicycle, first time you went to the movies, etc.? Describe these firsts.