

Questions for a grandparent

The world they came from, and what they carried out of it.

You need this paper, a phone that records, and an unhurried hour. Three or four questions are plenty for one sitting — follow the light in their eyes, not this list.

Before you sit down

- ☐ Asked permission a few days ahead, so they can warm to it.
- ☐ Charged the phone and tested the voice recorder once.
- ☐ Turned off the television; silenced my own phone.

The questions

1. What did the kitchen of your childhood home smell like on a Sunday?

2. Who was the oldest person you knew as a child — and what do you remember them telling you?

3. What did your parents do for work, and what did watching them teach you?

4. How did you meet the person you married, and what did you notice first?

5. What was the hardest year of your life — and what got you through it?

6. What could you buy for a dollar when you were ten?

7. Which family saying or recipe came from YOUR grandparents?

8. What do you hope your grandchildren keep doing long after you're gone?

9. Is there a story you've never told because nobody ever asked?

Afterward

- ☐ Moved the recording off the phone the same day (computer, family folder, or private archive).
- ☐ Named the file with person, date, and subject.
- ☐ Told them what it meant to me.