

# MY STORY

A Gift for My Loved Ones



*“No summer ever came back,  
and no two summers ever were alike.  
Times change, and people change;  
and if our hearts do not change as readily,  
so much the worse for us.”*

—Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bowdoin Class of 1825



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# MY STORY

by:

# DEDICATION

Our memories are a gift. And with this book, I am sharing mine with you, with the hope that my experiences and values, my achievements and mistakes, and my gratitude and regrets will provide you with some life lessons and maybe even some inspiration.

And so I offer this gift—the story of my life—to you with love. I hope you enjoy reading it and learning more about me.

I dedicate this collection of thoughts, feelings, memories, and events to:

# MY BEGINNING

My full name is

and I was born in (city, state, country)

to (parents' names)

I was named after

Here is the story I was told about my birth.

My earliest childhood memory, which has stayed with me all these years, is

When I was growing up, my nickname was

which I got because

# MY CHILDHOOD: FAMILY AND FRIENDS

They helped me become who I am today. They are my family and childhood friends. I want to tell you about my family.

Name: Relationship:

Name: Relationship:

Name: Relationship:

Name: Relationship:

Name: Relationship:

Name: Relationship:

They were the kind of people who

and taught me the importance of

These are the adults who influenced my childhood:

The most interesting thing I remember about them is

The children I grew up with, of whom I have fond memories, are

What I remember most about them is

My best friend as a child was

We had so many good times together. I remember one time when we

When I think back on my childhood, one special memory comes to mind:

That was a long time ago. But many of the lessons I learned have stayed with me throughout my life, including:



# LIFE AND LOVE

Like most people, I've experienced love and loss. It's not always easy to talk about, but I've tried to describe some of the relationships that have had the greatest impact on me.

I met \_\_\_\_\_, my first love, at

Some of our most memorable outings include:

My most significant relationship as an adult was with

This person is special to me because

My greatest joy in life has come from (names/relationships):

I want to tell you about them.

I've been fortunate to make some good friends along the way. I especially think about:

What I treasure most about my friend(s) is (are)

# MY LIFE'S WORK

I found my first real job as a

I liked that job because

Some of the things I didn't like about this first position include:

My favorite job was as a

The best part of that experience was

but the worst part was

I was fortunate to have mentors who helped me along the way. I particularly remember:  
(person's name)

because

My greatest accomplishment in life was

Looking back, I think what I like most about how I've spent my time is

# LOOKING BACK

Every life is a journey. I'd like to share some of the most interesting moments I've had along the way — as well as some of the more challenging ones.

I've lived in these places:

Among the places I've lived, my favorite was

That's because

I've also traveled. Some of my most memorable trips were to

And I've seen some wonderful sights. If I had to choose the most amazing I've ever seen, it would be

It hasn't all been easy, of course. I've faced some losses and difficult times, as well. My biggest challenge was

which impacted my life by

When I look back at my life, what has been most fulfilling for me is

I have a lot of good memories that I cherish to this day. One of my favorites is

As I look ahead to the future, some of the things I'd like to accomplish are

# A FEW OF MY FAVORITE AND NOT-SO-FAVORITE THINGS

Plenty of things make me smile — and plenty make me frown. Here are a few.

My favorite family recipe is

My favorite book is

My favorite movie is

My favorite song is

My favorite TV show is

My favorite place to be is

When I relax, I like

I've enjoyed the following hobbies:

My favorite color is

Other favorite things include:

My favorite quote or motto is

My pet peeve is

I hate the word

My least favorite color is

The chore I always put off is

Some pasttimes I really don't enjoy are

# LIFE LESSONS

Life is for living and learning. I hope you will find these lessons interesting and useful as you continue your own journey.

The best advice I ever got came from

who told me to

It had a great impact on me because

Of course, our lives are also shaped by events. The event (historical or personal) that made the biggest impact on me was

because

Practice moderation in

and enjoy abundance in

Taking everything I've told you into consideration, the most important life lesson I'd like to share is



# MY VALUES

When I reflect on my life and my legacy, I think about the values I've lived by. It's important to me to pass them on to future generations.

In my own life, I have strived to honor my values of

That is why my hope for the future is a world which embodies these values by

Perhaps that's why the following causes have become touchstones in my life:

These are important to me because

It's meant a lot to me to support these causes by donating my time, energy, and whatever I can afford. Doing so is an integral part of living a good life. I've been a passionate supporter of these charities:

because

# ADDITIONAL RESPONSE SPACE







# CREATING MY LEGACY

A life is made up of experiences, knowledge, wisdom, and values. I've shared those with you here, opening my heart because I care about you and want the best for you in your life.

We all learn from those who come before us. In that spirit, I hope my life will inspire and educate you as you continue your journey. Sharing "My Story" with you is one of the most heartfelt gifts I can give. Please accept it with all my love.

# **Bowdoin**

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