

STORY COLLECTOR

Grades 2–12

Designed to foster personal connections, the following activity aims to strengthen speaking and listening skills as students practice posing questions, recounting experiences, and interpreting family stories for their classmates. Follow the instructions on this page to prepare for the activity and use the worksheet below as a handout for your students.

OBJECTIVE

At the Skirball, we use the power of storytelling to make connections across cultures, build strong communities, and carry on traditions from one generation to the next. In this lesson, students are encouraged to connect with loved ones, learn from the experiences of others, and become recorders of their own family and community histories.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Talk to your students about the value of passing stories down from generation to generation. Ask them to think of someone in their family or community they would like to interview and learn from.
2. Have students select three discussion prompts for their interview. They can choose prompts from the student at-home activity worksheet below or come up with their own. Students may conduct interviews in person or virtually.
3. Ask students to write journal entries for each story. Have them reflect on and answer the questions posed in the worksheet below. Students can submit their written responses as homework or present their findings to the whole class.

LESSON ADAPTATIONS/DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

- In place of (or in addition to) a written response, encourage students to visually share what they have learned in their interview through drawing, painting, or a found object (e.g., a family photo or other artifact). This could be completed as homework or as a class presentation.
- **Follow-up discussion prompt:** What common themes did students find?

CONNECT WITH US

Our educators are here to help! If you would like to talk with us about how best to facilitate this activity with your students, please email teacherprograms@skirball.org.

AT-HOME ACTIVITY STORY COLLECTOR

Everyone is a storyteller. Stories are a powerful way to make connections, build community, and carry on traditions from one generation to the next. Preserve the stories of someone important to you by talking with them about their life, writing down what they say, and sharing their responses with others.

Choose three of the story prompts below or write your own. Use your selected prompts to interview a member of your family or community. Using a notebook or a scrap piece of paper, write a journal entry for each story you discover.

STORY PROMPTS

- Talk about one of your favorite family traditions.
- What is a food that is special to your family or community and why?
- Share a memory of a journey or family trip.
- Tell me about your favorite childhood game or pastime.
- Share a memory of a great grandparent or ancestor.
- Talk about a time your family or community worked together to solve a problem.
- What do you appreciate about your family and/or your community?
- Share a memory of a time you were brave.
- Tell me about a time you taught something to another person.
- What is an object that is important to you and why?
- Tell me about an adventure you had when you were younger.
- Talk about a time you felt welcome in a new place.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

In each of your three journal entries, be sure to include answers to the following questions:

1. Who shared their story with you?
2. What was the story about?
3. How did the story make you feel?
4. What did the story make you wonder?