

# AUTOBIOGRAPHY

## THE CREATION OF A DOCUMENT

### **GOAL**

To write my own personal autobiography and keep it as a permanent book so I can read it as I grow and share with my family.

### **TIMELINE**

Chapter 1: Birth and early childhood

Chapter 2: Education

Chapter 3: People and Friends

Chapter 4: Likes and Dislikes

Chapter 5: Success and Failure

Chapter 6: Career plans

Chapter 7: Feelings and Beliefs

Chapter 8: Reflections and Hopes

\*Design your own title page and dedication page to complete your autobiography.

\*All chapters are due by the due date which will be given to you.

\*Choose one chapter to share with the rest of us.

# Birth and Early Childhood

## Chapter 1

Directions: For each of the following exercises write one or two paragraphs. The paragraphs should follow one another, making a complete chapter. Use the following lines as prompts to write your paragraphs.

Exercises:

1. Your full name as found on your birth certificate.
2. Date of birth.
3. Time of birth.
4. Weight at birth.
5. Length at birth.
6. City, state, and country at birth.
7. Name of hospital or place of birth.
8. Mother's full name
9. Father's full name
10. Brother and or sisters names at your time of birth, if any.
11. Name of doctor who delivered you.
12. Address of home at time of birth.

Exercise 2:

1. Who picked my name?  
Mom \_\_\_\_\_ Dad \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
EXPLAIN:
2. How was my first name chosen?  
Honor of relative? \_\_\_ Honor of friend? \_\_\_ Religious Significance \_\_\_ Popular  
book, movie, song, movie star, etc.? \_\_\_ Historical Significances? \_\_\_  
Other? \_\_\_\_\_  
EXPLAIN:
3. How was my second (middle) name chosen?  
Honor of relative? \_\_\_ Honor of friend? \_\_\_ Religious Significance \_\_\_ Popular  
book, movie, song, movie star, etc.? \_\_\_ Historical Significances? \_\_\_ Other?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EXPLAIN:
4. What was to origin of my surname (last name)?
  - a. Country \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Meaning if known \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. EXPLAIN: How long have your ancestors been here?  
Has the spelling or the pronunciation of your last name changed?  
Are there any streets, towns, landmarks, etc. that were named to  
commemorate (honor) your family name? If so, where are they located?

5. Do you remember any of the other names which were considered as you discussed naming me? What were they?

EXERCISE 3: Have your family help you complete “My Family Tree”.

EXERCISE 4: If you had your choice, would you rather be: (a) an only child; (b) the youngest child; (c) the oldest child? Why?

EXERCISE 5: Many little children misunderstand certain words or ideas and as they grow older, they realize their mistakes. Recall your own “used to think”, and write a paragraph or two about them.

EXERCISE 6: Describe the ideal sister, brother, father and mother. Write at least one paragraph for each.

EXERCISE 7: Complete the following statement: “Compared with most families, mine...”

# **EDUCATION**

## **CHAPTER 2**

EXERCISE 1: What was your first school experience? (Nursery school? Church school? Kindergarten?)

Describe that first experience, if you remember it; if not, ask your parent/guardian to describe it for you. If you have any snapshots or mementos of that time, include them in this chapter.

EXERCISE 2: Describe some of the nicest teachers you ever had. Give specific examples to show why you thought the teacher was the nicest.

EXAMPLE 3: Describe your favorite subject in school now, and list at least three reasons why you like it.

EXERCISE 4: Describe one of the funniest things that happened to you while in school. (You may want to tell it in cartoon form or story form.)

EXERCISE 5: Describe one of the scariest or most embarrassing things that happened to you while in school.

EXERCISE 6: Write a paragraph describing any plans you have for advanced training and/or education.

# **PEOPLE AND FRIENDS**

## **CHAPTER 3**

EXERCISE 1: List a few childhood friends and describe some of the things you did together.

EXERCISE 2: Which do you consider most important in a friendship: loyalty, generosity, or honesty? Explain your answer.

EXERCISE 3: Describe one of the special people in your life. It could be someone you look up to and admire, such as a relative, a teacher, or a minister. Explain why this person is special to you.

EXERCISE 4: There are certain qualities in some people that turn you off. Write examples of the kinds of things people say or do that you dislike.

EXERCISE 5: Certain people immediately gain your respect. Describe the kinds of things people say or do for which you admire and trust them.

EXERCISE 6: Sometimes we find ourselves for or against something or someone without any good reason. We meet some people and immediately decide we don't like them; yet later as we get to know them, we discover we like them very much. Or we may hear something that we later find out for ourselves isn't true. Write an example of an experience you have had that shows how prejudging without the facts can be a mistake.

EXERCISE 7: Describe what you would do if you saw someone shoplifting in a store.

EXERCISE 8: Write a paragraph completing the following statement: "People can hurt my feelings by..."

# **LIKES AND DISLIKES**

## **CHAPTER 4**

EXERCISE 1: Write a paragraph explaining which of the following you would like most to be: very rich, very healthy, or very beautiful/handsome. Why?

EXERCISE 2: List twenty things you love to do.

EXERCISE 3: List and describe your chores, naming the one you dislike most to the one you least mind doing.

EXERCISE 4: Name your favorite in each category below:

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| MOVIE        | SPORT    |
| MOVIE STAR   | MUSICIAN |
| TV SHOW      | SONG     |
| COLOR        | BOOK     |
| FOOD & DRINK |          |

EXERCISE 5: Describe the poster on your wall at home, a collection, or a hobby of yours.

EXERCISE 6: If you could create a special private spot, all your own, what would it look like?

EXERCISE 7: Complete the following statement: "If I had a week's vacation to travel anywhere I chose, I would go to ...." And why?

EXERCISE 8: Recall and described in detail several items of clothing that were your favorites at one time or another.

EXERCISE 9: Describe any family pets you have had. If you haven't had any, write a paragraph on the kind of pet you would most like to own.

EXERCISE 10: You wake up in the middle of the night, and your house is on fire. All the family members are safe, and you have just enough time to save three things from the house. Which three things would you choose, and why?

# **SUCCESS AND FAILURE**

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

EXERCISE 1: Describe one of your most memorable successes in sports, music, drama, some other area.

EXERCISE 2: Describe something you can do or have done of this you are especially proud.

EXERCISE 3: Describe something you have done that you regret.

EXERCISE 4: If you could be a famous person from the past, describe who the person would be and why.

EXERCISE 5: Describe the kind of person you would ideally like to be.

# **CAREER PLANS**

## **CHAPTER SIX**

EXERCISE 1: Describe any job you have had, such as babysitting, gardening, or mowing lawns and what you have learned from that experience.

EXERCISE 2: Make a list of at least ten jobs or careers you might like to have one day.

EXERCISE 3: Being a mother or father is also a career. Do you believe education in this career would help you to become a better parent? If yes, what kind of education would you get, and where would you find it? If no, how would you most like to spend your life?



# **FEELING AND BELIEFS**

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

EXERCISE 1: Describe your personal code of ethics, the do's and don'ts that rule your behavior.

EXERCISE 2: Using specific examples, write a brief paragraph completing each of the following statements :

1. Bravery is ...
2. Courage is ...
3. Honesty is ...
4. Love is ...

EXERCISE 3: Complete the following sentences.

1. I'm happy when ...
2. I'm afraid to ...
3. I cry when ...
4. The thing that scares me most is ...
5. I am most creative then ...
6. The subject I would be most reluctant to write about is ...
7. I would consider it risky ...
8. I need to improve most in ...
9. When someone hurts me ...
10. I get angry when ...

EXERCISE 4: Make a list of the things you would like to have happen in your life right now, five years from now, and ten years from now.

# **REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST/HOPES FOR THE FUTURE**

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

EXERCISE 1: Complete the following statements:

1. Someday I'm going to ...
2. I used to be ...
3. I am ...
4. What I want most in life is ...
5. Two of the most important things in my life ...

EXERCISE 2: As you think back on your life, describe how the seemingly "bad" things that happened have turned out well. For example, in lessons learned or in experiences that prepared you for a future event.