

Memory Jar Questions for Young Writers

A memory or life jar is a great idea for autobiographical or fiction writing.

Print out the following pages, cut them into individual questions, then put them in a jar or box and draw one or two out at random as writing prompts.

- What makes you laugh, and why?
- What makes you feel sad. Why?
- What's special about your favourite book?
- Describe yourself in six words.
- What was your favourite toy when you were little, and why was it special?
- What would your tooth say to the dentist?
- Write an advertisement for a set of parents, then five interview questions you would ask them.
- What are the important world events that have happened in your lifetime?
- Describe the yard you played in as a little child?
- What would you like to be remembered for?
- What is your favourite holiday destination, and why?
- Tell about any ancestors that you know about - name dates, etc. and any stories you know about them.
- What was your best birthday ever?
- How do you feel about winning/losing?
- Describe your best friend.
- If you had a child, what advice would you give them?
- Do you wish you had more sisters or brothers, and why?
- What games did you play as a child - inside and outside?
- Where did your grandparents live? What was their home like? Did it have a certain smell or look?
- Did you have a bicycle and what was it like?
- Did you and your mother share any interests together - what and why?
- Did you and your father share any interests together - what and why?
- Describe a childhood Christmas.
- What did you do when you were a child that got you in the most trouble and how did your parents handle it?
- Tell about your first crush.
- Did you go camping? Tell about your experiences.

- What do you dream about doing?
- What is your personal secret of happiness?
- What personality trait do you admire and why?
- Did you have a favourite TV program?
- Write about some places you went with your father.
- What do you think brings good or bad luck?
- What are your food preferences and how did they come about?
- Describe the perfect winter day.
- What is your favourite animal? Tell why.
- What is the most trying experience that ever happened to you?
- What kind of music do you like: any memories associated with music?
- Tell the words of a song from your childhood. What memories does it bring?
- What is your favourite movie and why?
- What do you remember about shopping with your mother? Any particular stories?
What was your favourite store?
- Write the story of your own birth?
- If you could be a flower, which one would you choose and why?
- Did you have a favourite subject in school? One you dreaded?
- What are some of your favourite smells? Why?
- One word on how to live successfully.
- What brings you the most peace and why?
- What is the one invention you could not live without and why?
- Describe the most serious illness you have had.
- Tell about any pets you've had.
- What are you frightened of? Why?
- Describe your favourite dress/outfit as a child.
- What does email mean to you?
- What makes you feel good?
- Describe walking down the main street in your home town.
- What really bugs you?
- If you were to break a record in the *Guinness Book of Records*, what would it be?
Why?
- How do you feel during a thunderstorm? Do you have any memories of wild storms?
- Explain how to play your favourite game.

- Describe your first toy.
- When do you feel proud?
- What is something you do well.
- Describe the best clothing outfit you've ever worn.
- What's your most indispensable possession, and why?
- If you were lost in the dark in the bush, what would you do?
- If you could give one gift to the world, what would it be?
- If you could have been a person in history, who would it be, and why?
- What do you think about when you can't sleep?
- What things do you think are beautiful?
- What is courage? Name a time when you were courageous.