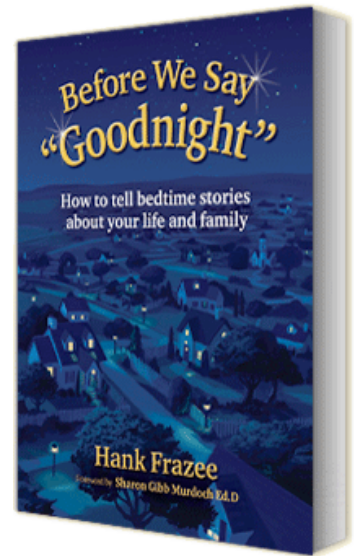


Before We Say “Goodnight” Story Prompters

The crucial first element in telling a good story is deciding who or what to tell the story about. You must begin with people or animals as your characters, for without them you have no story. Now the reality is that you have thousands of stories to tell, but they're sometimes hard to remember on the spur of the moment. You need access to the hard drive of your memory. That's why I invented Story Prompters, a comprehensive description of which is in the book , to provide a simple way to access an endless supply of stories to tell.



The Story Prompter lists available here are more comprehensive than those in the book. We have more space here to work with, so we can create more categories and entries. Please refer to the book for a complete description of how to use Story Prompters and how to create the other elements of a good bedtime story.

These lists are set up to easily cross-reference most of the people you know, with multiple categories. To paraphrase Thomas Edison, when you think you've exhausted every possibility, you haven't.

Before We Say “Goodnight” Story Prompters (Page 1 of 3)

PEOPLE & ANIMALS

Family:

You
Your spouse and his/her family members
Your kids
Brothers and sisters
Mother and father
Grandparents and great-grandparents
Cousins
Aunts and uncles
Nieces and nephews
Oldest relative
Relatives who are “characters”
Other relatives
Ancestors

Role Models and Leaders:

People who made a difference in your life
Your heroes
Religious leaders
Favorite teachers
Boy scout and girl scout leaders
Coaches and mentors
Sports heroes
Camp counselors
People of great character

Other People:

Shop/business owners, entrepreneurs
The dentist or doctor
The police or firefighters
Artists, writers, other creative people
Other unusual or interesting people

Friends:

Your childhood best friend
Other childhood friends
Childhood neighbors
Your friends’ families
Pen pals
Family friends
Guests
Current friends
Current neighbors
Your parents’ friends

Animals:

Your cats or dogs
Pet tricks
Horses, farm animals and livestock
Small and large pets
Smartest Pets
Unusual pets
Your family’s and friends’ animals
Wild animals

Time Periods and Eras:

Infants and toddlers
You as a kid
You as a teen
You in your 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, etc.
Your spouse as a kid
Your spouse as a teen
Your spouse in his/her 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, etc.
You and your spouse
Your favorite age
Your relatives and friends in these eras

PLACES, EXPERIENCES & THINGS

Accomplishments:

Awards, degrees, honors
Challenges
What you’re proud of

Cars:

Favorite car
Family cars
First car, worst car
Learning to drive
Riding in the car

Childhood Home:

Front and back yard
Bedrooms and den
Kitchen and dining room
Living and family room
Garage or basement
The street on which you grew up
Neighborhood and town

Daily Life:

Allowance and chores
Backyard barbecues
Bedtime and bath time
Bikes, and learning to ride
Candy and snacks
Cell phones, computers
Clothes
Earliest memory
Funny experiences
Games and toys
Meals and food
Restaurants and shopping
Skateboards and blades
TV, video games, radio
Weekends and weather

Faith:

Childhood experiences
Childhood prayers
Ceremonies and celebrations
Religious holidays
Your faith

Family History:

Birthplace and genealogy
Family legends and stories
Names and nicknames

Family Traditions:

Parties and presents
Celebration traditions
Heritage and customs

Before We Say “Goodnight” Story Prompters (Page 2 of 3)

PEOPLE & ANIMALS

Family:

You
Your spouse and his/her family members
Your kids
Brothers and sisters
Mother and father
Grandparents and great-grandparents
Cousins
Aunts and uncles
Nieces and nephews
Oldest relative
Relatives who are “characters”
Other relatives
Ancestors

Role Models and Leaders:

People who made a difference in your life
Your heroes
Religious leaders
Favorite teachers
Boy scout and girl scout leaders
Coaches and mentors
Sports heroes
Camp counselors
People of great character

Other People:

Shop/business owners, entrepreneurs
The dentist or doctor
The police or firefighters
Artists, writers, other creative people
Other unusual or interesting people

Friends:

Your childhood best friend
Other childhood friends
Childhood neighbors
Your friends’ families
Pen pals
Family friends
Guests
Current friends
Current neighbors
Your parents’ friends

Animals:

Your cats or dogs
Pet tricks
Horses, farm animals and livestock
Small and large pets
Smartest Pets
Unusual pets
Your family’s and friends’ animals
Wild animals

Time Periods and Eras:

Infants and toddlers
You as a kid
You as a teen
You in your 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, etc.
Your spouse as a kid
Your spouse as a teen
Your spouse in his/her 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, etc.
You and your spouse
Your favorite age
Your relatives and friends in these eras

PLACES, EXPERIENCES & THINGS

Favorites:

Bike
Books and poems
Candy, desserts, and ice cream
Childhood songs
Foods
Games and toys
Jokes and funny stories
Memories of your children
TV and movies
Music, bands and songs
Restaurants and stores
Sport to play or watch
Stories your parents told you

Hobbies and Other Interests:

Antiques
Art-drawing, painting, sculpting
Concerts and plays
Cooking
Crafts and model building
Dolls
Dance and ballet
Gardening and growing your own food
Horses and other animals
Music, singing, instruments and lessons
Reading and writing
Stamp, coin and other collecting

Holidays:

Civic, patriotic and religious holidays
Holiday activities, dinners and memories
Parades
New Year’s Eve
Valentine’s Day
The Fourth of July
Halloween and costumes
Thanksgiving

Hopes, Dreams and Schemes:

Adventures to have
Charitable interests
Dream home
Dream trip
Places to go, people to see
What you wanted to be when you grew up

Outdoor Fun:

Animals and nature
The beach and deserts
Backpacking, camping and hiking
Boats and off-road vehicles
Farms and ranches
Fishing and hunting
Motor vehicles
The mountains, lakes, rivers and oceans
Skiing and surfing
Snorkeling and scuba diving
Sports
Swimming
Thrills and feats of daring
Vacations
Wilderness adventures
Winter recreation

Parents and Grandparents:

Their childhood and life experiences
Experiences with your parents
Where your family is from
Where they grew up
How they met
Military service
Their work
Their likes and dislikes
What they were like when you were a kid
What they taught you

Before We Say “Goodnight” Story Prompters (Page 3 of 3)

PEOPLE & ANIMALS

Family:

You
Your spouse and his/her family members
Your kids
Brothers and sisters
Mother and father
Grandparents and great-grandparents
Cousins
Aunts and uncles
Nieces and nephews
Oldest relative
Relatives who are “characters”
Other relatives
Ancestors

Role Models and Leaders:

People who made a difference in your life
Your heroes
Religious leaders
Favorite teachers
Boy scout and girl scout leaders
Coaches and mentors
Sports heroes
Camp counselors
People of great character

Other People:

Shop/business owners, entrepreneurs
The dentist or doctor
The police or firefighters
Artists, writers, other creative people
Other unusual or interesting people

Friends:

Your childhood best friend
Other childhood friends
Childhood neighbors
Your friends’ families
Pen pals
Family friends
Guests
Current friends
Current neighbors
Your parents’ friends

Animals:

Your cats or dogs
Pet tricks
Horses, farm animals and livestock
Small and large pets
Smartest Pets
Unusual pets
Your family’s and friends’ animals
Wild animals

Time Periods and Eras:

Infants and toddlers
You as a kid
You as a teen
You in your 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, etc.
Your spouse as a kid
Your spouse as a teen
Your spouse in his/her 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, etc.
You and your spouse
Your favorite age
Your relatives and friends in these eras

PLACES, EXPERIENCES & THINGS

School Experiences:

Preschool
Elementary school
Middle school
High school
College
School days and friends
Favorite and worst teachers
Favorite subject and grade
Field trips
Getting to school, school buses
Homework
Vacations

Sports and Recreation:

Baseball
Basketball
Boogie boarding and surfing
Hockey
Horseback riding
Ice skating
Ping pong, horseshoes and pool
School sports
Spectator sports
Team sports
Tennis and other racquet sports
Water and snow skiing

Travel:

Best vacation
Camping
Cruises
Family vacations
Furthest destination
Riding in the car
Where you would like to go with them

Work:

Your work
Your spouse’s work
Your parents’ work
Best and worst bosses
Best and worst jobs
First, weirdest and hardest jobs
Fun on the job
Every job you’ve ever had (multiple nights)
Friends you met through work
How you got into your current line of work
Your most interesting job

You and Your Spouse:

How you met
Your first date
Other memorable dates
Meeting your in-laws
Getting engaged
Your wedding day
Where you went on your honeymoon
Your first home
Having children

Your Kids:

The day they were born
As infants and toddlers
Bath time and bedtime
First words
First steps
Favorite toys and foods
Their size and look
What they were like
Your favorite memories of them