

FAMILY STORIES and LITERACY

We can help young writers see they have STORIES IN THEIR OWN BACK YARDS.

Family members have interesting stories to tell **IF ASKED**. Most often, **ASKING** is the **key**.

What can happen when children and teens explore family stories?

1. Increased motivation/relevance

2. Engagement in

- Speaking
- Listening
- Research
- History
- Writing
- Reading
- Thinking

◆ SPEAKING and LISTENING

- The Impromptu Interview
- The Formal Interview

Good listeners encourage great storytelling.

◆ RESEARCH

**Research is like a yard sale;
you never know what you will find.**

Family Artifacts:	photos, jewelry, trophies, furniture, school or war medals.
Family Documents:	letters, recipes, wills, diplomas, newspaper clippings.
Public Records:	census records, birth/marriage/death certificates, deeds.

The Challenges of Research -- Memory vs. Documented sources

◆ HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

We can put children and teens in the position to see where they and their families fit in the big picture that is history, and to recognize the snapshots that are their personal stories.

◆ WRITING

Possible projects for young writers and artists:

- Heritage Scrapbooks
- Journals/Notebooks
- Poetry/Music Lyrics
- Essays
- Stories (fiction or nonfiction)
- Storytelling/Oral History
- Videos (with music from the time period/family favorites)

◆ READING AND THINKING

Interviewing, researching, examining historical context, and writing involve careful reading and analytical, connective, creative thinking.