



THE GIVER: MEMORIES INTERVIEW

“The worst part of holding the memories is not the pain. It’s the loneliness of it. Memories need to be shared.”

Interview

It’s your turn to “receive” a memory from someone else! Choose a family member or neighbor to interview, and ask them to share one of their most important memories with you. With their permission, use an audio or video recording device to record them sharing their memory with you. Ask them to give as much detail as they can, using the prompts below to help you.

- When and where did the memory take place?
- What happened and why?
- What could you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel?
- What were your thoughts and emotions?

Go back and listen to the recording of the interview. In the table below, take notes about the memory that you “received”. Then, write a brief narrative summary of the memory on the lines provided. Feel free to use more paper if needed.

Sights:
Sounds:
Smells:
Tastes:
Feelings/Sensations:
Thoughts and Emotions:

Summary: _____



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“Even trained for years as they all had been in the precision of language, what words could you use which would give another the experience of sunshine?”

Reflection

Reflect on your experience of “receiving” a memory from someone else. Use the prompts to guide you, and then write your response on the lines below.

- Who did you interview? Why did you choose this person?
- How was this interview experience similar to or different from ways that you’ve interacted with this person before?
- Describe your own thoughts and feelings as you were “receiving” the memory.
- How successful was the memory transfer? Do you feel that the memory now belongs to you? Explain.
- What other question(s) do you still have about this person’s memory?
