

The Way We Were'

First day at school

?

Games we played

*My First
Romance!*



The Way We Were Writing Pack



The Way We Were

*'And all the journeys that we make
Through childhood, adulthood and older age
Through the sun and rain
And weather of life
The happy smiles, the tears, the jokes
And all those things that make the lives we live in'
Denise Curtin Dunne*

Imagine if someone were to write a book about your life so far, what would you like included in it? Which stories, memories, people, places and events are close to your heart, make you smile, or even bring a tear to your eyes. They are inextricably part of the fabric of your life. Yes, you know the stories and memories that are important to you! Sometimes you tell them to your family and friends. Some of them are already part of your family's 'folklore', and are enjoyed and passed around between family members.

Now consider this! YOU are being invited to put some of these memories and stories down in writing. Your words and your voice are what we want to read and hear. We would be delighted if you would share them with us, and tell them to us in the way you might be sharing them with family or friends.

Have you favourite memories that you might enjoy writing about?

For example:

Your first day in school

Childhood friends

Important people in your life

Memorable days in your life

Your teenage years

Playing sport

Teams you supported

Your social life

Embracing adulthood

Your first job

Love and marriage

Raising a family

Values that have been passed down to you



At the end of the day, our special memories will usually involve the people who have mattered most to us during our lives; people with whom we shared the love, fun, laughter, sad times, hard times, and good times, for these are the things that connect us as humans.

Now is the chance for you to put pen to paper and tell us a story from your life, in the way you would like it to be told; in your own words. You and your family will forever have part of your life and times recorded and published in a lovely collection of stories for everyone to cherish and enjoy.

I have put together some prompts for you to use, only if you wish, to get the writing started! Have a look at the different sections inside, and see if it suits you to use them. Otherwise, you may prefer to just dip into those memories, the ones you choose yourself, and get going under your own steam! Do whatever feels right for you, but most of all, we hope you enjoy going down memory lane.

Happy writing!

Denise Curtin Dunne

Writing Coordinator/LOETB

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Growing Up

Where did you grow up? Describe the area?

Did you have brothers and sisters?

What did you and your siblings do for fun?

What do you remember about your parents and grandparents?

Who do you think you are most like in your family?

Did you inherit any skills or talents from your parents or grandparents?

What was a typical day like for you when you were a child or teenager?

Where was the favourite place for you and your friends to meet up?

Have you a favourite story you enjoy telling about yourself when you were a child or teenager? When was it? Where was it? Who was there? What happened?



Schooldays

What was the name of your Primary School and where was it?

How did you get to school on your first day and do you remember who was with you?

Who was your first teacher? Tell us something about her/him.

During your Primary School days, was there a particular teacher who meant a lot to you? What did you like about her/him?

Who were your friends in Primary School? Do you still keep in touch with any of them?

Had you a favourite subject in school? What did you like about it?

What kinds of games were played in the schoolyard and after school?

Did you play sport in school? If so, can you tell us about any games, matches or sports events that really stand out for you?

Are there any particular days from Primary School (or Secondary School) that you will never forget?



Sport & Games

Were there any sporting heroes in your area? Tell us a little about them.

What sports did you play? Was there a match or game you played when you were younger that you'll never forget? Tell us about it!

Who were your biggest rival teams?

Did you support any famous team as a young adult?

Did your parents, grandparents, or any of your aunts or uncles play sport? Were any of them particularly talented at sport?

What kinds of street games did you like to play with your friends? Can you tell us about some of those games?

What was your greatest sporting achievement? When was it? Where was it? Who was there? What happened?



Your Generation

In your young adult days had you a favourite singer or band? Can you remember any songs or tunes from that time that you particularly liked?

Did you like to go dancing? Where did you go to dance? Who did you go with?

Who were the friends that you passed your time with?

What were the fashions like when you started to go out socially?

Can you describe an outfit from that time you particularly liked?

Did you go to the cinema? Who did you go with?

Are there films from your younger days that you really enjoyed?

What radio and TV programmes did you enjoy?

Is there a day from your younger days that you'll never forget?

What were the best things about your younger days?



Working Life

What kinds of jobs were popular in your family?

What was your first job?

Tell us about your working day?

Who were you friendly with in work?

Do you notice big changes in the types of jobs people have these days?

What do you think was better or harder about working life in your day?

What was the funniest thing that ever happened to you in your job?

Did you ever change jobs and do something completely different?

What advice would you give to people today about working life? What was important to you in your job?



Love & Marriage

Where and how did you meet your husband or wife?

What was the first thing you noticed about him/her?

Can you recall a memorable day you shared when you were going out together?

Where did you get married?

Where was your first home together?

Who were your neighbours and friends in the early days of your marriage?

What was it like raising a family in your day?

Are there special days you remember from the time your children were growing up?

What advice would you give people these days about raising children?



In My Life

Is there a day in your life that you will never forget?

Were there inventions in your lifetime that made big differences to people's lives?

Name two of your favourite songs and say why you like them so much.

Were there any songs sung or stories told when you were growing up that you've never forgotten?

Who are the people who have influenced you the most in your lifetime?

What are the biggest changes in Ireland in your lifetime?

What's the best advice you were ever given?



The Way We Were

Please complete and return this with your written piece to:

**Writing Project
Bridie Costello Hynes
Offaly PPN at Offaly County Council
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Charleville Road
Tullamore
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Name:

Address:

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If you would prefer to email your piece to us, send to:

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(please include your full name, address and phone number in email)

Closing Date is June 30th, 2021



