**Childhood, Elementary, and High School**

Where were you born?

Did you ever hear any stories about anything interesting that happened during or soon after your birth?

Was anything memorable (and perhaps funny) said by someone during or soon after your birth?

Why'd your parents give you your name? Did they give you a nickname growing up? Did your friends give you a nickname?

What are your parents' names?

What nationality are you?

Were you raised with any cultural norms from your family's background?

How many siblings did you have?

If none, did you enjoy growing up as an only child?

If so, how did you guys get along?

Did you ever share a room with siblings? If so, how many siblings did you share a room with? If you shared a room with siblings, which siblings in particular did you share a room with? If you shared a room with siblings, how did you feel about doing so?

Did you ever have to sleep in the same bed as a sibling? If so, which sibling in particular? If you slept in the same bed with a sibling, how did you feel about having to do so?

If you had one or more older siblings, how did you get along with them? If you had one or more younger siblings, how did you get along with them?

Which sibling were you the closest with? Which sibling did you quarrel the most with?

How would you quarrel with your sibling(s)?

Where was your first childhood home? How was it different from your house today? Did your first childhood home have a telephone?

Did everyone in your household speak English as their first language? If not, did you learn the language? Do you still speak it?

What was your favorite meal, growing up?

Who cooked that meal the best? What would your parents say or do if you didn’t finish some of your food? Did you ever learn from them? Did they teach you a secret family recipe?

What was the first thing you wanted to be when you grew up?

What was your family's economic status? How did that make you feel?

Did your household always have a television? If not, when did your family get their first television?

Was your first television a black and white set, or a color set?

How did you adjust the antenna on the television?

How did you have to change the channels on the television your family had?

Did you have to move the antenna to change the channel, or was there a twist knob on the television set perhaps?

What was your favorite show to watch on television?

Did anyone ever make video recordings of you and your family when you were young? If so, who recorded those videos and what did they use? How often did you watch it back?

How often did you see movies at the theater, as a child? How much did movie tickets cost, when you were little? What was your favorite movie you ever saw in your childhood? Do you remember what was the first movie you ever saw?

Did you have an allowance as a child? If so, how much was it?

Where did you go to elementary and middle school? What was the name of your school? How big was it? Was it a public or a private school? Was it in a residential neighborhood with lots of trees around it, or on an urban street?

Were you ever disciplined at school? What was the usual punishment? Was this embarrassing to you?

What were some of your favorite memories in elementary school?

What was your favorite thing to do during recess?

What is something you would do in the summer for fun? What about the winter?

In elementary school, Were there any classes or teachers that made a lasting impact on your life?

Where did you go to high school? What was the name of your high school? What kind of neighborhood was it in? What street was it on? How many students went there? What did the hallways look and feel like? How long was your commute?

Was schoolwork hard or easy for you? If it was hard, did you have any learning disabilities?

What were your favorite and least favorite subjects?

In high school, Were there any classes or teachers that made a lasting impact on your life?

What were your favorite and least favorite sports to play? If no sports, any extra curricular activities? How good at them were you? If nothing, what would you spend your time doing not at school?

Did you ever try learning a musical instrument or do anything artistic?

Did you ever act in any school plays or musicals? If so, what was your favorite school play or musical that you acted in?

Were you ever bullied as a child? Why were you bullied? How did you deal with it? What advice would you give to someone who is being bullied?

Were you popular? If you weren't, does that still hurt?

Where did your crowd hang out? Did you go to a diner or a drugstore or a grocery or the library or a neighborhood gas station?

What kind of music would you and your friends listen to? Who were your favorite artists? Did you ever see them live?

What were the clothing trends when you were in high school? Did you follow those trends?

Did you have a job in high school? If so, what was it? Did you enjoy it?

Did you ever help your mom or dad at their jobs?

What was your relationship like with your parents? What is something you enjoyed doing with them? If your relationship wasn’t good, why not? Do you wish you could’ve changed that?

Did you ever get into a physical fight with another child?

What was the biggest thing you ever got in trouble for?

What was the biggest thing you did that you never got in trouble for?

How did your parents discipline you? Were you scared of your parents?

Did you ever wish your parents raised you differently? Is so, how?

What is one thing you are particularly grateful to your parents for doing?

What's the biggest lesson each of your parents taught you?

What is something you failed at as a child?

What is the sickest you ever were as a child?

What is something tough you had to go through when you were young?

Was that your saddest memory?

Did you go through any trauma as a child? How did it affect you? How do you deal with it? Does it still affect you today?

What is your happiest memory from childhood?

Did you ever win any awards at school or in sports? Are you particularly proud of any one moment in your childhood?

What was the one thing you were always most scared of as a child?

How’d you celebrate Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza? What was your most memorable Christmas gift?

Were there any holidays that were particularly special to your family?

What kind of cars did you guys have growing up?

When did you learn to drive? How'd you learn? Did you ever get into any accidents?

Is there anything you were passionate about in high school?

Did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up?

Who did you look up to when you were growing up?

Were you happy in high school? Did you know it at the time?

What did you discover about yourself in high school? Did you learn a skill that you could take out in the world with you?

How did you feel on your high school graduation day? Were you sad when it ended, or were you ready to leave it all behind?

How important were your high school years in your life? Do you ever dream about those years?

Would you rather be in high school back when you were, or today?

Do you remember ever being mentioned in a newspaper, when you were young? If so, what was the occasion?

Did any new technology change your family’s life when you were young?

What is one thing you missed out on doing in your childhood that you wish you could go back and do?

If you today could have one conversation with yourself when you were a high school student, what would you say?

If you could go back into your past and bring one object back to the present, what would you choose?

What advice would you give to one of your future descendants dealing with trauma from their childhood?

What is the biggest thing that happened to you (Or you learned) as a child that shaped you as an adult?

*If you had to sum up your childhood in just one word, what would it be?*

To wrap up your childhood, would you like to add any closing remarks or any questions I didn't ask that you'd like your future descendants to know?